



Month-long celebration kicks off on Saturday

GET SET FOR A BOSTIN' FESTIVAL

Report by Luke Bartlett

IT'S been going from strength to strength for five years and now Dudley and the wider Black Country is preparing its biggest and best festival yet.

The month-long Black Country Festival celebrates everything that makes our region bostin' – and it gets under way on Saturday.

Dudley North MP Ian Austin predicted a 'fantastic festival', saying: "Well done to Steve Edwards (organiser) for pulling together what I am certain will be another brilliant festival, celebrating all that's great about the Black Country."

The festivals have been fantastic, bringing all of our communities together.

Inspired

"I think Dudley and the Black Country are the greatest places in the world. We lit the spark that fired the industrial revolution and changed the whole of the world."

"I want us to be inspired by that and I think the festival gives us the confidence to know we can beat any challenges and bring new industries, new jobs and new prosperity to the Black Country."

The festival runs from June 30 to July 29, and starts with a fun day at Vale Street Recreation Ground in Upper Gornal on Saturday afternoon. The Black Country Road Run is held in Halesowen on Sunday, which is also when Armed Forces Day is held at Himley Park.

A street food festival is at Stourbridge's Bonded Warehouse on July 6 and Halesowen Carnival is at Highfield Park on July 7, the same day as the Chain Makers Festival in Cradley Heath, Tividale Park Fun Day and Netherton Park Fun Day. Then it's Stourbridge Carnival on July 8 with Dudley Fun Day in Stone Street on July 14.

For a full list of events visit www.black-country-festival.co.uk website.

ON YOUR MARKS FOR BLACK COUNTRY ROAD RACE



You don't have to be Usain Bolt to enter The Black Country Road Run – organiser Alan Bowler with deputy mayor Hilary Bills and mayor Alan Taylor

MORE than 1,000 runners are expected to be on the starting line raising money for charities at the seventh annual Black Country Road Run on Sunday.

Organisers from Halesowen and Rowley Regis Rotary Club say the event has become a firm favourite in the Black Country and further afield with runners coming from as far as Scotland to take part. They run two laps of a

course around Halesowen in a 10k race measured by Run Britain. Many others will take part in a fun run and this year the organisers are introducing a corporate event.

West Midlands Mayor Andy Street, Halesowen and Rowley Regis MP James Morris and Black Country marathon man Blind Dave Heeley are set to take part. With Blind Dave planning to do both the 10k and fun run.

Organiser Alan Bowler said the races had raised more than £140,000 for charities over the years. He added: "We are looking to get around 1,000 to 1,200 people across the races. We support a lot of local children's charities and Black Country Women's Aid."

"Andy Street has been very supportive. James Morris has taken part every year and each Dudley mayor supported the event."

RETAIL

Goulds shuts down after half a century

AN independent electrical store that has served the Black Country for over half a century has closed.

Goulds TV in Bilston Street, Sedgley, has gone into liquidation and its premises are shuttered. The business shut for the last time in May with staff given just five days notice after corporate recovery specialists Butcher Woods of Birmingham were appointed as liquidators.

The business sold televisions, cookers, fridges, microwaves and other domestic appliances. The shop was originally in High Street and later moved to the former Co-op store in Bilston Street. At one time the business also had shops in Wolverhampton, Bilston and Great Bridge.

EVENT

Display team fly in to honour forces

THE Wings Parachute Display Team will be one of the highlights of the free admission Armed Forces Day honouring servicemen and women past and present at Himley Hall and Park on Sunday.

The 12.30 display (depending on weather conditions) will be followed later in the afternoon by the presentation to veterans of the HM Armed Forces Veterans Badge.

VIOLENCE

Medics facing more knife and gun crime

PARAMEDICS are dealing with 30 stabbing and shooting incidents a week in the West Midlands as the region struggles with an upsurge in violent crime.

New figures show West Midlands Ambulance Service responded to 1,512 incidents where a victim was either knifed or shot in 2017/18 – up from 1,355 the previous year.

INSIDE SMART MOVE AT MERRY HILL



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Mutilation cases include 30 in Dudley

NEARLY 800 victims of female genital mutilation (FGM) in the West Midlands have been treated by the NHS over the past year.

Official figures from NHS Digital show the shocking scale of the barbaric practice, with Birmingham posting one of the highest levels of FGM of anywhere in the country.

There were 620 cases recorded in the city in 2017/18, with 179 in the Black Country. A total of 90 women were treated by medical staff in Sandwell and there were 55 cases in Wolverhampton, 30 in Dudley, four in Walsall and two cases in Staffordshire.

The NHS says it has increased support for

women suffering from abuse but estimates that only five per cent of those affected by FGM seek treatment.

Across the country 6,400 women and girls with FGM were seen by NHS staff in England between April 2017 and March this year. An estimated 137,000 are thought to have been affected by it.

FGM – when female genitals are cut or otherwise injured for no medical reason – is illegal in the UK. Carrying it out, or assisting, either in the UK or abroad, can be punished with up to 14 years in prison.

A spokesman for the NSPCC said: “FGM is a barbaric practice that leaves its victims physically

and mentally scarred. We urge any young women or girls dealing with the physical and emotional impact of FGM to seek help and support. Sadly this abuse is still all too commonplace.

“There are no medical reasons to carry out FGM. It doesn’t enhance fertility and it doesn’t make childbirth safer. It is used to control female sexuality and can cause severe and long-lasting damage. Since the launch of our FGM helpline in 2013, we have received hundreds of calls.”

The round-the-clock helpline is available on 0800 028 3550.

FGM is most commonly carried out within communities from Africa, the Middle East and Asia.

Black Country version of ‘Boris bikes’ on the way

DUDLEY is set to get its own version of London’s famous ‘Boris Bikes’ this autumn under a new deal to grant more powers to the West Midlands Combined Authority.

Docking stations will be located around key sites in Dudley’s with the bicycles available for visitors and residents 24 hours a day.

Dudley Council’s cabinet were hearing about plans to bring the bikes to the borough while considering the second devolution deal at its meeting on last night (Wednesday).

Annual membership to the scheme will cost £30 a year, meaning riders can access the bikes for as little as 8p a day.

The first 30 minutes are usually free and charges will apply per half hour after that.

Dudley is set to be part of phase three of the project rolling the bikes out across the region.

Nextbike is to provide 5,000 bikes around the West Midlands, along with connecting parking hubs, over the next two years.

Concession

Wolverhampton is expected to get 900 from September, with Dudley, Walsall and Sandwell each getting 300 this autumn.

Birmingham, Solihull and Coventry will also get bikes.

Nextbike was picked to run the bike concession by Transport for West Midlands, part of the combined authority, earlier this year.

The scheme will be similar to London’s Santander Cycles – formerly known as ‘Boris Bikes’ in honour of Boris Johnson, who introduced a similar scheme in the capital during his tenure as Mayor of London.

Other benefits to the borough of a second devolution deal would include funding for projects such as the Brierley Hill Metro extension, the new Music Institute in Brierley Hill, DY5 Enterprise Zone, Very Light Rail project and a new Dudley bus station.

It adds up to success for pupils



Winners of Dudley Maths Championship in the years three to four category was Kingswinford’s Glynne Primary

YOUNG mathematicians from across the borough battled it out to be crowned winners of a maths competition.

The finals of the annual Primary Dudley Inter-School Mathematics Championships was held at Saltwells EDC last week with pupils from several primary schools taking part.

The competition is split into two age groups – years three and four (aged seven to nine-years-old), and years five and six (nine to 11-year-olds).

In February around 700 children took part in the heats of the competition, with the first and second place schools for both age categories going into the final.

Glynne Primary School, in Kingswinford, were crowned champions in the younger age category, while Halesowen’s Newfield Park Primary School won the older category.

Helen Owens, who organises the competition with Darren Walter, said: “The competition involves

lots of practical investigations and challenging maths activities in five rounds.

“All schools in the Dudley borough are invited to take part in the competition, and this year we had between 40 and 50 schools joining us – with six children in each team.

“The children are real credits to their school. They had a really good time. The level of maths we saw was really outstanding. There were really good mathematicians using their skills in the activities..”

Call for talks to rescue plan for owl sanctuary

CABINET minister and South Staffordshire MP Gavin Williamson has called for last ditch talks in a bid to stop a £900,000 owl sanctuary from leaving the West Midlands.

The senior Tory MP and animal lover says it is ‘a tragedy’ that the World Owl Trust (WOT) has abandoned plans to set up its new home at Himley Park.

The decision follows a clash with the West Midlands Historic Building Trust (WMHBT), which wants a full restoration of the walled garden at Himley Hall.

The 11,500 sq m site had been derelict for 25 years and was set to have a conservation centre featuring the biggest collection of owls in the country, a cafe, a shop and an education centre.

Mr Williamson said: “Work started on this site two years ago and it was all set to be a fantastic attraction that the people of the Black Country and Staffordshire could be proud of.

“It is such a tragedy that talks now appear to have broken down.”

Mr Williamson is a patron of the WOT and has been a regular visitor to the organisation’s temporary home at The Animal Zone in South Staffordshire College’s Rodbaston Campus.

Discussions

He said: “Discussions have already been quite protracted but it is vital that every effort possible is made by all of the concerned parties to reach an agreement.

“Before the trust started work on the site this was redundant wasteland that had not been touched for years. You have to ask what will happen to it now?

“It would be an ideal place for the trust, which needs a permanent home for its owls as quickly as possible. It will be a real shame if the owls are now taken away from the West Midlands.”

A team of 30 volunteers from the WOT started work on the scheme in 2016, clearing up of the long-derelict walled garden.

However, this year the trust has encountered opposition from the WMHBT, which was brought in by the hall and park’s owners Dudley Council to examine the plans for the project.

Historians are said to have insisted that any plans for the site should include a full restoration of the walled garden, which dates back to the mid-18th century. But it has been estimated that could cost £4 million.

They also questioned the strength of the WOT’s business case.

Diamond rock Robin

STOURBRIDGE’S veteran heavy metal band Diamond Head will be performing in the Black Country this autumn. The band, including original guitarist Brain Tatler will be supported by Fires That Divide and Dead Agents at the Robin 2 in Bilston on October 6.

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Council to invest £9.7m in building new homes

COUNCIL bosses are set to welcome a multi-million pound investment scheme, which will see the Dudley Council build homes for outright sale for the first time in decades.

The homes for sale project will see the council invest £9.7 million to build 59 homes for sale on the open market and 20 affordable homes in the borough.

The properties will be developed on four plots – the site of the Mere Centre in Stourbridge, Amblecote House in Brettell Lane, Turner House in Dudley and St Thomas' Network in Dudley.

The expected return on investment will be ploughed into boosting the council's resources to improve and support council services.

The scheme will be discussed at Dudley Council's cabinet meeting on Wednesday.

Councillor Laura Taylor, cabinet member for housing, said: "This is a major decision for Dudley. It's the first time in decades the authority is able to pursue a project to build homes for outright sale at market value, alongside our ongoing project to build new affordable council homes.

Brownfield

"We're confident we can deliver the homes that people want at affordable prices. This is an exciting time for us and any return on our investment will be used to support future housing investment as well as boosting general fund reserves to continue to improve council services for all of our residents."

The council has also vowed a 'brownfield first' approach to protect the borough's green belt.

The Black Country Core Strategy is also set to be discussed by cabinet members next week, outlining the next stages of the study, which includes working with neighbouring councils to identify land within the existing urban area with the potential for development.

Dudley Council leader Councillor Patrick Harley added: "We need to do everything we can to protect the green belt in Dudley borough. That is why I have made it very clear that we need to leave no stone unturned in making sure we look at every aspect of brownfield sites."

More unemployed

THE number of unemployment benefit claimants in the West Midlands has shot up over the last year. Labour-sourced figures show 71,965 people claimed unemployment benefit in May 2018, up 7,320 (11 per cent) on the same month last year. Ian Austin, Labour MP for Dudley North, said the figures were 'shocking'.

60th birthday TV tribute to Sir Lenny



Sir Lenny Henry

SIR Lenny Henry will have his career honoured with a celebratory broadcast on BBC1 to coincide with his 60th birthday later this year.

The Sir Lenny special, which will air later this year, will be filmed in front of a studio audience as the Dudley-born comedian takes a light-hearted look back at his TV career, which started in 1975 when he appeared on talent show New Faces.

He then went on to become a regular in anarchic children's show Tiswas and prime time comedy series Three of a Kind, before co-founding Comic Relief and its popular Red Nose Day in 1985.

The prime-time birthday tribute will include clips from his years on the small screen, and there will be new sketches featuring special guests.

Sir Lenny, who turns 60 on August 29, said the broadcast is "a great honour", and that he is "very chuffed" to have his comedy work celebrated.

He added: "One of the reasons I became a comedy performer was because of the rich and varied palette of comedy broadcast on the BBC throughout my childhood. I was hooked and my early career displays the connection.

"I'm a comedy consumer now, but my

teens were marked by my family's tendency to sit round the television and watch everything. So big up Auntie Beeb – you're the reason I'm here."

Shane Allen, controller of BBC Comedy commissioning, said: "Lenny's unparalleled career is down to his superb versatility and huge charisma.

"This landmark special hosted by Sir Trevor McDonald gives audiences the chance to celebrate this well-loved, larger than life talent by going back to his origins as a comedy whirlwind with a phenomenal talent to create and inhabit characters. It's going to be more than 'ooookaaay!'"

First deal struck over £25m light rail centre

PLANS for a £25 million very light rail innovation centre in Dudley have been given a boost with the first deal struck to test vehicle prototypes on its track.

Coventry City Council has confirmed its intention to use the test track in Dudley once it is built.

It comes as Dudley Council's cabinet is expected to approve funding to allow development work to continue "at pace" for the pioneering centre, which is proposed for a site near Castle Hill.

As part of its ambition to develop very light rail travel for Coventry, working with the Warwick Manufacturing Group, Coventry council will use the test track in Dudley to carry out research and develop vehicle prototypes.

Coventry chiefs say they will also be seeking funding for a potential extension to the track in Dudley.

Councillor Patrick Harley, leader of Dudley council, said: "This is fantastic news for Dudley. Very light rail innovation is at the heart of our regeneration plans and we see it as a real game changer in the development of travel solutions worldwide.

Interest

"The first phase of this £25 million project will deliver the test track and innovation main building. The test track isn't even built yet and we're already attracting interest from other authorities.

"Depending on the progress of the planning application and all funding being in place we are looking to begin work on the test track and innovation centre in early 2019, with completion of both towards the end of 2020."

The council's cabinet were yesterday (Wednesday) considering an amendment to the funding of the preliminary stages of the project.

Councillor Harley added: "We're looking to bring forward £130,000 in funding on the advance works, design fees and statutory authorities, ahead of the full funding package for phase one of the project being formally approved."

Beacon's Blindfold Mile challenge



Annmarie Balrom, Sophie Higgians, Gurinder Atwal and Tim Jukes look forward to the blindfold walk

FUNDRAISERS are being challenged to walk a mile wearing a blindfold to help raise cash for Beacon Centre for the Blind.

The first Blindfold Mile Walk is on Saturday, July 7, with sponsored participants setting off from the charity's headquarters in Wolverhampton Road, Sedgley.

People will take part in pairs. One will be blindfolded and guided by their partner before switching roles halfway, to experience walking from a visually impaired person's perspective.

Event organiser Gurinder Atwal said: "Our Beacon Blindfold Walk will be a fun event but it is

also an opportunity for people to experience just a little of what it's like if you are visually impaired."

Entry is £10 for adults and £5 children (12-16), who must be supervised by an adult. See beaconsvision.org/event/beacon-blindfold-mile-walk/ or call 01902 880111.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Charity shop thief caught on camera



Do you recognise this man?

A MAN broke into a hospice charity shop in Dudley and stole a donation box and costume jewellery.

The thief was pictured on CCTV after he smashed his way in to the Mary Stevens Hospice shop, in Louise Street, Lower Gornal, in the early hours of Friday, June 15.

He caused damage to a door, side window and a display case during the burglary.

The hospice has now released a CCTV image of the thief in a hope that someone may recognise him. They also thanked the community for rallying around after the break-in.

Society hits new record for lending

DUDLEY Building Society has hit a record level of mortgage lending.

The society, which has its head office at The Waterfront, Brierley Hill, and celebrates its 160th anniversary this year, saw a fall in pre-tax profits from £1.72 million to £1.54m for the year to the end of March. But its mortgage lending was up 58 per cent from £51.9m to £82.2m and more than £70m was deposited by savers. The total asset base was up 12 per cent to a record £397.4m and this has topped £400m since the end of the financial year. Reserves are also up.

School's delight over thumbs-up

STUDENTS and staff at a school in Tividale are celebrating after inspectors rated the academy as 'good' again, recognising continued success.

Ofsted visited Ormiston Sandwell Community Academy last month as part of a short inspection.

The report described how the academy's leadership has 'maintained the good quality of education in the school since the last inspection'. They praised the executive principal Marie McMahon and her team.

Rotary backing award

A ROTARY club is supporting a young person or apprentice of the year award as part of the Black Country Chamber of Commerce's annual awards.

The Rotary Club of Dudley is sponsoring the award which recognises young employees, aged 24-years-old or under, with a cash prize of £1,000 for the winner.

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COUNTY NEWS

Mortgage cheaper than rent – expert

THE average first-time buyer in the West Midlands can save nearly £1,000 a year once on the property ladder rather than renting. A Santander study found that across the UK first-time buyers would have lower monthly outgoings if they bought a property. In every region of the UK, average monthly rental prices surpass average mortgage repayments. The UK average is £2,268 and for the West Midlands it is £2,996. The region's average rent is £679 a month, average house price for first-time buyers is £168,287 with monthly mortgage repayments £596 leaving buyers £83 a month better off.

Years & Years to play Arena gig

POPULAR pop band Years & Years will play Birmingham city centre later this year. The announcement comes ahead of the release of the British synth-pop trio's second album, Palo Santo, on July 6. It follows their critically-acclaimed debut Communion, released in 2015. In January 2016, the group fronted by singer and actor Olly Alexander was nominated for four BRIT Award. Years & Years will play Arena Birmingham on Friday, November 30. For further details go to www.arenabham.co.uk/whats-on/years-and-years

First Bostin' Fittle Festival

DUDLEY Canal Trust is holding its first Bostin' Fittle Festival this weekend, from tomorrow (Friday) to Sunday. It will offer Black Country food and drink, including Black Country ales available in the Gongoozler restaurant at the trust's HQ, The Portal, off Birmingham New Road. The festival runs from noon to 10pm on Friday and Saturday and noon to 5pm on Sunday. Local musicians will be performing and there will be canal trips.

Midsummer's Dream of a show at museum

A STORY of love, intrigue, magic and celebration will be taking centre stage in Bewdley next month. William Shakespeare's play, A Midsummer Night's Dream, comes to Bewdley Museum on Sunday from 5.30pm in a production by The Quantum Theatre company. Tickets cost £12 for adults and £8 for children. To buy tickets, visit www.bewdleymuseum.co.uk.

Let us share your Prom Night pictures

THE school discos of our yesteryears are well and truly assigned to the history books for the modern generation. When school's out for students today they are putting on their ballgowns and black tie glamour for a night they will hopefully remember for the rest of their lives – the school prom. Planning for the big night, certainly for many girls, takes place

weeks and probably months beforehand. From tip to toe every (costly) detail is planned from the hairstyle and tiara to fake tans, manicures and pedicures. Dress hunting is a serious business as all girls want to be the belle of the ball. It's not just about dressing to impress. Transport is almost as important as pals strive to make the biggest impression when they arrive at the

venue – whether it be in a limo, carriage or even Doctor Who's Tardis. How much is this once-in-a-lifetime evening likely to set parents back? Latest figures suggest we will spend an average of £500 on a daughter's prom night – many will spend that on the dress alone. But with a tear in their eye and proudly clicking away with the camera, most parents will no doubt think it money well spent.

We would like to see your beautiful prom-ising princesses and princes. Share your prom experience with us. Send us your pictures from these milestone events and we will carry as many as possible. Please email your picture with names of those in the snapshot as well as details of the school and where the event took place. They should be sent to Sue.Atwater@expressandstar.co.uk

Talks over rolling out 'average speed' cameras

Report by Alex Ross

TALKS are under way to install more 'average speed' cameras on roads across the Black Country.

Police are to meet with the four Black Country councils to discuss the initiative. Speaking at West Midlands Strategic Policing and Crime Board meeting last week, Superintendent Dean Hatton said: "We are two years into a five-year contract that has helped to reduce average speed across speed enforcement sites." Chief Inspector Gareth Mason said: "Given evidence from Solihull and Birmingham trials, we are seeing how it can bring benefits to other areas. "We are looking at the costs involved for police and authorities and possible locations. We already look at how we can continually improve speed enforcement and have 161 mobile sites for enforcement. I would be surprised if none of those were chosen for average speed cameras."

Fatalities

In April, Dudley Council said it didn't have any plans to introduce the cameras, while Wolverhampton, Walsall and Sandwell councils said they were considering it. West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner David Jamieson said: "In the last year there has been a reduction in the number of fatalities on our roads. There are still too many deaths and the number of injuries is far too high. I am working with local councils to expand the average safety camera pilot undertaken in Birmingham and Solihull. Where councils are prepared to install cameras I will ensure they are enforced." In Dudley 1,486 motorists were caught by mobile speed cameras at 14 locations during a 12-month period.

Shopping centre provides life-saving kits



Naomi Campbell and Shaun Stokes from intu Merry Hill, with Zoe Turton and Andy Landers from Holly Hall Academy A NEW defibrillator has been installed at a school as part of an ongoing community project by Merry Hill shopping centre bosses intu. They have raised more than £15,000 in the last two months to allow the installation of 14 defibrillators, potential lifesavers for people suffering cardiac arrest. The equipment has been fitted in local schools and community centres, with the most recent outside Holly Hall Academy in Dudley. In addition, 10 Merry Hill staff members have volunteered to support FastAid Black Country by becoming defibrillator instructors, supporting more than 1,000 people in the Black Country. FastAid are a group of community first responders supported by West Midlands Ambulance Service who work to increase the number of defibrillators across the region, as well as providing free training on how to use them. It costs the charity around £2,000 to install each machine. Naomi Campbell, community development manager at intu Merry Hill, said: "The presence of a defibrillator could be the difference between life and death in an emergency situation, which is why it is important to ensure all members of the community have access to one."

Black Country terrorist was cause of laptop ban

A CAR mechanic from Dudley who joined Islamic State and boasted about his bomb-making activities in Syria has been named as the reason why the United States banned laptops on flights last year. A former MI6 spy has made the revelation in his autobiography, explaining how Hamayun Tariq, who was born and bred in Dudley, had plans to smuggle bombs 'disguised as laptop batteries'. It prompted a ban on passengers carrying laptops on flights from 10 airports in the Middle East and North Africa bound for the US. It also barred electronic tablets, e-readers and any such device bigger than a mobile phone. The ban was initiated in March last year, but lifted four months later after improved security checks had been put in place. The claims were made by Aimen Dean, a former al-Qaeda explosives expert recruited by the secret services to infiltrate UK jihadist circles. He wrote in 'Nine Lives' about Tariq who once went by the nom de guerre Abu Muslim al-Britani, stating: "An intelligence source told me in 2017 that Abu Muslim was involved in ISIS efforts to develop bombs that could be smuggled onto aircraft disguised as laptop batteries." According to Dean, Tariq is currently developing deadly drones with explosives on the Syria-Iraq border.. Father-of-two Tariq claimed to be an explosives expert and sniper for ISIS after fleeing the UK for Pakistan following release from prison. The divorced 40-year-old used social media in 2015 to share chilling pictures of his 'laboratory' in Syria.

Peak performance Blinders get award

BIRMINGHAM-SET gangster drama Peaky Blinders has received an award at an event celebrating television excellence. The BBC TV series, which is partly filmed at Dudley's Black Country Living Museum, scooped the Rockie Award for Best Drama Series: English Language at Canada's Banff World Media Festival. Starring Cillian Murphy, Tom Hardy and Helen McCrory, Peaky Blinders also won a BAFTA Award earlier this year. Peaky Blinders has been aired for four seasons with a fifth confirmed for 2019. The show has followed the rise of the fictitious Shelby crime family in Birmingham in the 1920s and is written by Birmingham-born screenwriter Steven Knight.

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Street ahead with first community weekend

SEVEN events will take place in Dudley borough during the first regional Mayor's Community Weekend on Saturday and Sunday.

Events will include a barbecue at Riverside House in Stourbridge, a street party in Wolverhampton Street in Dudley and a huge community clear-up organised by the African Caribbean Community Network.

Stourbridge-based Friends of Greenfield Park will also be hosting a huge get-together while there will be two events in Brierley Hill, a summer fair at Pens Meadow Home School Association and an open day and picnic at the Black Country Radio studios.

Additionally, Churches Housing Association of Dudley and District will be hosting a barbecue aimed at supporting young people at risk of homelessness in Halesowen.

West Midlands Mayor Andy Street said: "Community groups in Dudley have been fantastic in getting involved and I am delighted to see a variety of different events in every part of the borough taking place over the weekend.

"The whole idea of the Community Weekend is to encourage greater pride in the many diverse communities across our region."

The events are taking place thanks to a £60,000 Big Lottery Fund.

For more information, visit the www.wmca.org.uk website.

Goodyear factory reduced to rubble

NEARLY a year on from its final closure, what remains of the once iconic Goodyear factory beside Wolverhampton's Stafford Road is gradually being reduced to rubble.

Demolition workers are now the only people to be found at the former factory, which once employed several hundred workers. The last Goodyear employees bid farewell to the Wolverhampton plant in August 2017.

Former worker Wayne Devaney, one of the last men out of the factory last summer, said: "It is very sad to see the demolition of the plant's buildings, especially as it was reported that the land would be used to build a business park of small units. Now we see it has been earmarked for housing yet again."

Shopping and football

MERRY Hill Shopping Centre will show live every England game and knockout match during the World Cup, until the final on July 15 on the lower mall. That includes England versus Belgium today (Thursday).

£25 job costs lay-by fly-tipper £1,000

A ROGUE waste operator who dumped rubbish he had been paid to dispose of in a quiet village has been landed with a court bill of more than £1,000.

David Russell, of High Street, Quarry Bank, pleaded guilty to four environmental offences at Kidderminster Magistrates Court on June 6.

Russell had been tracked down by Wyre Forest District Council officers after they discovered the fly-tipping in a small lay-by between Belbroughton Road and Broome Lane, in Blakedown, on September 11 2017. It consisted of

bricks, a wooden pallet, black bin bags, cardboard boxes, plastic boxes, broken-down drawers, a coffee table and various other household items.

Enforcement officers trawled through the rubbish and were able to successfully trace it back to a Dudley resident who had procured Russell's services.

Prosecuting on behalf of the council, Nina Dorrell told the court that Russell was paid £25 by the resident to dispose of the rubbish a couple of days before it was discovered in the lay-by.

Russell did not have a valid permis-

sion for commercial waste disposal, a fact that had not been queried by the resident at the time.

In addition to the fly-tipping offence, Russell also pleaded guilty to a further three offences of failing to comply with the council's formal requests issued in the investigation under the Environment Act.

Magistrates imposed fines amounting to £160 and ordered him to pay a £30 victim surcharge and £60 compensation in respect of the clean-up costs. He was also ordered to pay the council's legal costs of £909.88.

As a result, Russell was ordered to pay a total of £1,159.88.

Councillor Rebecca Vale, cabinet member for operational services, said: "Fly-tipping is a criminal offence. It is thoughtless and totally anti-social and goes against everything we are trying to do to keep our district clean, green and looking good.

"We will always take action to trace those responsible and I'm delighted we were able to solve this case and bring a successful prosecution.

"We would urge people to check people's permits before employing them."

Homes approved despite chemical firm concern

CONTROVERSIAL plans to transform a former business site into homes have been given the green light.

The houses and apartments will be built at the Bodykraft site in Brierley Hill after councillors approved the proposals.

It comes just a year after developers were refused permission to launch their housing scheme on the site over fears neighbouring firm Hammond Chemicals would be too noisy for residents.

Shaun Hammond, director of the chemical company, told Dudley Council's development control committee the scheme would provide 'poor residential amenities' and claimed it was an 'unacceptable development'.

He said: "We are a very busy, noisy, chemical site. We are now at risk of noise complaints. We have a good safety record but with hazards and risks, there is no guarantee. This block of land is allocated for industrial use."

Developer

But the majority of councillors were unconvinced by his pleas to halt the development and gave the plans the go-ahead last week.

West Midlands Fire Service and the Health and Safety Executive offered no objections to the plans for the site at the junction of Dudley Road and Canal Street.

Developer Westleigh Homes will now build 32 homes and 33 apartments, including 'affordable housing', at the former vehicle repair business site.

A three-storey apartment block, which did not feature in the previous application, will act as an 'acoustic screen' and is expected to reduce noise from the Hammond Chemicals' warehouse.

Councillor Colin Elcock, who represents Norton, said he did not think the development was 'viable' and abstained from the vote.

He added: "This type of housing is being aimed at young people who really have not much choice of housing. They are going to be living on top of a chemical works and living in an industrial area."

Peaky Blinder sausage launched



Kate Blizard from Sessions and Ian Monk from Lloyds Bank with the new Peaky Blinder sausages

A NEW Peaky Blinder sausage in partnership with a Black Country brewery.

Sessions Meat Supplies in Kidderminster has teamed up with Lye's Sadler's Brewery with support from Lloyds Bank Commercial Banking.

Sessions was established in

1979 and is a third-generation family-run sausage manufacturer and butchers.

The new sausage is infused with Sadler's popular Peaky Blinder ale, which was created in homage to the TV series that is partly filmed in Dudley at the Black Country Living Museum.

The partnership has been assisted by a £70,000 asset finance facility secured by Sessions Meat Supplies from Lloyds Bank.

This has enabled the business to buy a new sausage filler machine which will boost its capacity by 30 per cent and is set to raise turnover by more than 10 per cent.

NEWS IN BRIEF

End of the line for Yorkshire Bank

THE Yorkshire and Clydesdale Banks are set to disappear from the high street following their owner's £1.7 billion deal to take over Virgin Money.

All the banks will be gradually re-branded under the Virgin Money banner.

The Yorkshire brand has already disappeared from Dudley, which closed its branch in Wolverhampton Street this year. The Yorkshire Bank in Wolverhampton closed down in 2012.

CYBG, owner of Yorkshire Bank, Clydesdale Bank and Virgin Money say around 1,500 jobs will be lost as a result of the takeover deal.

Rent swallowing public sector pay

HIGH rental costs mean many public service employees in the West Midlands are spending more than a third of their wages on rent, according to new research.

Hospital porters are struggling the most, with rents swallowing up more than half of their take-home pay in 32 out of 33 local authority areas in the West Midlands, the union Unison says. Findings are based on the average private rent for a one-bedroom property in each local authority area. Regionally, South Staffordshire is the most expensive area to live.

Robin 2 up for national award

THE Robin 2 music venue has been nominated for a national accolade.

The much-loved venue in Bilston is a finalist in the National Tribute Music Awards. It is nominated in the category of best all round in-house team at a club below 800 capacity.

The awards are run by the Entertainment Agents Association and the winners will be announced at Leicester Athena on July 4.

The venue has been run by Mike Hamblett for decades, first in Pedmore Road, Brierley Hill, before relocating to Mount Pleasant in Bilston.

Rolling back the years with musical nostalgia

A TOURING show featuring music and dance from the 1950s to t70s is coming to Dudley Town Hall in the autumn.

Rolling Back The Years is being staged on October 9 at 2pm. It features more than 160 costumes plus hits from The Beatles, Frank Sinatra, The Four Seasons, Elvis Presley and many more. Tickets are on sale at £12 via boroughhalls.co.uk or from the box office on (01384) 812812.

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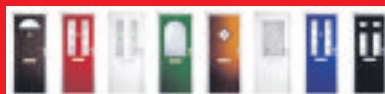
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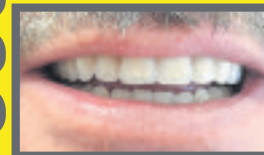
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IN MY VIEW

with Mark Andrews



'Hygiene poverty' is a real stinker

THIS sounds like something out of Oliver Twist, but Staffordshire headmistress Nicola Finney says she has spent hundreds of pounds of her own money on soap, deodorant and toothpaste for pupils who repeatedly turn up to school in a filthy state.

According to the charity In Kind, she is not alone. A survey it carried out revealed that 36 per cent of teachers who responded provided toothpaste, 29 per cent had bought soap, and 27 had bought treatments for head lice, or nits as they used to be known. Perhaps the words "who responded" are crucial to the reliability of that survey, but nevertheless it is shocking that in this day and age children are being sent to school smelly and unwashed.

The survey says "hygiene poverty" is a growing problem in Britain's schools, with a growing number of parents unable to afford basic washing products. I do think it would be interesting, though, if, at the same time, those who commissioned the survey had dug a little deeper and spoken to the parents about the reasons why they were unable to ensure their children went to school in a respectable state.

For example, how many of those claiming their children are too poor to wash have flat-screen TVs, for example? Do they have mobile phones, home computers? Do they smoke or drink? If so, I would have thought that personal hygiene was surely more of a priority.

Perhaps I'm being uncharitable, but a quick look on the Aldi website reveals that you can buy a bottle of shower gel for 33p, four bars of soap for 59p, and roll-on deodorants for 45p. We're hardly talking big-ticket items here.

I'm pretty sure that even during the Great Depression, when there was hardship unlike anything we term as poverty today, most parents would have managed to make sure their children washed before they went to school.

Miss Finney is clearly a very kind, dedicated headmistress, and her pupils are lucky to have somebody who cares so much about their welfare.

But at the same time I do worry that in hiding behind terminology such as "hygiene poverty", we are simply making excuses for bad parenting which, at its most extreme, is tantamount to child abuse.

More than that, I can't help but think that it is a great insult to the vast majority of parents on low incomes who would willingly starve than subject their children to the indignity of having their teachers issuing them with soap.

Millions watch TV from Russia with love for football



England hero Harry Kane is doing the business but only a few thousand fans have gone to Russia



Prince Charles - maybe hoping to boost his green credentials with a Tesla electric car?



Phillip Lee - one of those who fell on his sword over the ongoing Brexit unrest in Parliament

Will Kane be able to bring out the fans?

POLITICAL terms of our time. Meaningful Vote: an opportunity for the Brexit vote of 17.4 million Britons to be overturned by a few dozen Remain MPs - in the name of democracy. Fudged a few days ago but still lurking.

LOVED the opening line on The World at One (Radio 4): "Canada has legalised cannabis. We'll be speaking to the high commissioner."

I WROTE recently that in more than 40 years in journalism, I had yet to hear a single reader complain about being a victim of upskirting. A correspondent says this is because it's a modern crime, made possible by tiny cameras. He may have a point. In ye olden days, even if you managed to smuggle your glass-plate camera and tripod under a lady's crinoline, the explosion of magnesium flash-powder was a dead giveaway.

THE shortest and most thought-provoking comment on taking photographs up ladies' skirts came in an online debate this week: "Upskirt. Wimbledon."

STRANGE, isn't it, that while around 2,000 England fans have travelled to the latest World Cup game against Panama in Russia, up to 25 million viewers are reckoned to have tuned in to see Harry Kane's heroic hat-trick in the England v Panama match? I bet the answer is that while the beautiful game has lost none of its fascination, there's deep unease about endorsing Russia in any way.

THE Salisbury nerve-agent affair may be part of the explanation for the low turnout of World Cup

THE BEST OF PETER RHODES



fans. But, while the jury is still out on that incident, a full international inquiry has left no doubt that Russia has blood on its hands for shooting down Flight MH17 over Ukraine in 2014, and killing 298 innocents. Maybe it's that casual act of mass murder, or maybe fear of Russian hooligans, that keeps supporters out of Russia.

I SUGGESTED we might celebrate Brexit Day next March by setting off fireworks. A reader takes me to task: "Why would you like to terrorise animals around the country by such an antic?" What animals? As all serious Remoaners know, by the time we leave the EU the economy will have collapsed, we'll all be living in mud huts scavenging for food and all the cows, sheep, cats, rats, dogs and hamsters will have been eaten long ago. Our rockets will fall harmlessly into a bleak and blasted apocalyptic landscape. Or am I thinking of the millennium bug?

I HAVE no idea how this got past the marketing people but I see the Arla dairy co-operative is selling "Farmers Own Milk." Arla is based in Leeds but doesn't it put you in mind of Royston Vasey?

HALF a page of the Daily Telegraph was devoted to a report about the Prince of Wales hoping to acquire an American electric car, the Tesla.

We were informed that Prince Charles' people have been speaking to Tesla for more than a year about the acquisition. Very odd. Buying cars is normally quick and simple. So what can the hold-up be? Unless, of course, this is not a sale at all but a freebie arrangement in which Tesla supplies the car, HRH polishes his green credentials by saying nice things about electric vehicles and the Telegraph splashes what is in effect a free advert.

ON the same day, quite by chance, my electricity bill arrived. It's a reminder that electric cars are clean and green only if they are powered by clean, green electricity. In 2016-17 less than a quarter of UK electricity came from renewable sources and more than half came from nasty ol' planet-warming coal and gas. Put that in your Tesla and burn it.

THE Guardian reports that in a question-and-answer session at the Labour Live "Jezfest," a former councillor candidate called for "specific mental-health resources for people who have stood in elections and failed to win."

AS this Brexit debate reaches its climax, watch out for more ritual falling on swords, as performed by the Tory justice minister Phillip Lee, followed by half-a-dozen of Corbyn's front-benchers. They get their moment of high principle but, because no-one outside Westminster has ever heard of them, it hardly shakes the nation. I was reminded of that sketch when Peter Cook as a senior RAF officer orders a pilot (Jonathan Miller) on a doomed mission with the words: "We need a futile gesture at this stage. It will raise the whole tone of the war."

TALKING POINT



Counting the cost of holiday behaviour

GETTING ready for a fortnight in the sun can be a daunting prospect for many, what with packing the right clothes, cancelling the papers and checking your passport is valid.

But how many of us consider how we'd react if faced with that most dreaded of problems - the holiday trouble-maker.

This year's World Cup has generated plenty of headlines about fears of possible hooliganism, and rightly so.

However, with the main holiday season just beginning, perhaps the media should be turning its attention to how some people misbehave while taking their well-earned break.

According to a recent survey, one in 20 Britons - five per cent - have been asked to leave a hotel with being drunk and disorderly, not surprisingly, the most common reason. Other misdemeanours include causing excessive noise, and inviting people to the hotel.

How about apologising? Well, the survey found that just 11 per cent were forgiven and allowed back in by the hotel management.

Now, before anyone points to the reputation Britons have for being rowdy, take a look at these figures: one in eight (12 per cent) French holiday makers have been removed from a hotel, followed by those from Germany (nine per cent), Spain (six per cent) and Italy (three per cent).

In this supposedly money-rich, time-poor era, it seems absurd that having saved up for a holiday, so many people choose to spoil it for themselves - and, more importantly, others - by not knowing how to behave.

On a lighter note, the survey by price comparison website hotels.com also asked for examples of embarrassing experiences.

Falling over turned out to be the most common, with that comedy staple of 'suitcase spilling open' not far behind.

The most telling though was 'showing off, only for it to go wrong', which no doubt comes about from being so inebriated in the first place.

It's almost a badge of honour to drink to the point of oblivion, to demonstrate their capacity for booze which, combined with blazing sunshine and not having to get up for work the next day, can have a devastating effect.

So, to anyone about to set off for a holiday, remember it can be a long and expensive trek home if you find yourself with nowhere to stay.

But there again, there's always next year if it all goes wrong!

STEVE PARLETT

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Penny-pinching society discards the elderly

WE now appear to have local councils at the point of no return with regards to the elderly in care.

Funding is at an all time low, owing to the constant cutbacks by the Government, staff morale is at rock bottom, every job has a time limit.

Pensioners are now treated as a chore, a quick hello, beans on toast, cup of tea, bye, see you tomorrow, another ten minute job over, carer races to next job.

How very sad. These people have paid into this country for a lifetime, yet now, when in need, they are treated

Life ban for killer motorists

THE tragic death of a young lady recently is indicative of the selfish and uncaring society that we have become.

The victim's father is a decent, intelligent and well-respected author, known personally to me.

The shock of his daughter's demise caused his wife to have a heart attack. I cannot imagine the agony that family is going through.

The driver who caused the accident was convicted and sentenced to a prison sentence of six years. The victim's family is now sentenced to never seeing their daughter again.

The standards of driving in the UK are worse than they have ever been, with complete disregard for other drivers or the law.

I believe that these maniacs who treat our roads like a race track, resulting in a fatality, should be banned from driving for life following their prison sentence.

MICHAEL CLIFF
Wall Heath

like nonentities. Many old folks never see anyone for days, they need company, a chat, someone to sit with.

In the 1960s my mother worked in a council-run old people's home. I used to go there to get the key off my mother to our house when I came home from school. I remember all those happy old folks, who loved to chat, tell me about the past, etc. Yes they were happy, they had occupational therapy, they helped in the kitchen with my mum, cooking their own tea, washing up, feeling wanted, taken on days out.

Contrast that with today, plonked in

a semicircle with the television on full blast, all slumped in chairs, so the staff know where everyone is.

What an evil society we live in now. We treat them like garbage, everything now is time orientated, homes with pretty rooms but no companionship.

There are a few decent care homes. But some are substandard, all thanks to the penny-pinching society which we are all part of. So visit your elderly neighbour, have a chat, show them you care, we owe them a great deal.

MR C LLOYD
Dudley

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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Revive the commuter train lines

'NO more quick fix on transport, say bosses' The Chronicle June 14. In fact, there is no fix of any kind when it comes to finishing the 120k Black Country Railway. Over 50 years our foolish transport bosses have nicely fixed our urban railway lines by stupidly thinking they were meant to have homes, shops, trading estates and roads on them instead of trains.

Even today they still refuse to put regional commuter trains on the missing 56k in Dudley, Sandwell and Walsall despite congested motorways and main roads. Instead, they only want to resurrect the 1990s 87k eight lane Western Orbital Motorway.

Always money for roads and colossally expensive trams but nothing to finish 56k of ready and waiting railway lines that are empty of trains. These people have more money than sense and no sense of priorities.

TIM WELLER
Halesowen

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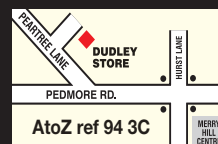
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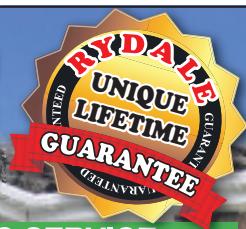
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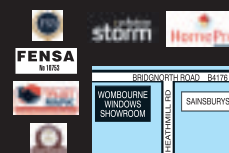
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MEP calls for national debate on cannabis

A WEST Midlands MEP has called for a national debate on the legalisation of cannabis.

UKIP politician and former Sedgley councillor Bill Etheridge said there were 'countless cases of anecdotal evidence' to suggest that cannabis has beneficial effects on the treatment of certain illnesses.

In a video message on social media, Mr Etheridge said that if marijuana was legalised, regulated and taxed, the potential damage of the drug could be minimised.

He said: "It is undeniable that the time is right for a serious national debate."

"The most powerful argument against people smoking weed in the UK over recent years is that it can have detrimental effects on the mental health of some people and that new types of skunk have become more powerful and harmful - surely if the product is legalised, regulated

and taxed, we can minimise the damage. "Properly regulated supplies will ensure that the products with the damaging new varieties included can be banned."

Mr Etheridge concluded: "Let's encourage a serious national debate and hopefully update our outdated approach to this really important issue."

It comes as Home Secretary Sajid Javid authorised Bill Caldwell, aged 12, who suffers with severe epilepsy, one of the bottles of cannabis oil confiscated by airport officials after his mother tried to bring them into the UK from Canada.

Smart move for TV stars



TV property personalities Phil Spencer and Kirstie Allsopp with comedian Susan Calman promoting smart meters at Merry Hill

TV property stars Kirstie Allsopp and Phil Spencer paid a whistle-stop visit to the Black Country with comedian and Strictly Come Dancing star Susan Calman as part of a campaign to encourage householders to get energy-saving smart meters fitted in their homes.

Customers at the Merry Hill shopping centre, in Brierley Hill, saw the Location, Location, Location duo and the TV comedy panel

show regular. Kirstie said the campaign, which is taking them to shopping centres from Bristol to Glasgow and many points in between, was about informing people.

She said: "Everyone is enthusiastic about it. It is a win-win." Phil added: "You are either part of the problem of wasting energy and costing yourself too much money or you are part of the solution."

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History of castle given to members

Grange (E) Guild

IN the absence of chairman Chris Holton, Sue Wilding presided over the May meeting and welcomed 28 members and six guests.

The minutes from the last meeting were read, approved and signed as a true record. She apologised to members for having to cancel the outing to Chester through lack of support and would try to organise another outing in the autumn.

She said many knitted squares had been made which will in turn be made into blankets for the Fistula Society. Treasurer Jill Attwood gave an up to date financial report.

Grange Guild entered four teams in the West Midlands Federation's quiz and one of the teams came first and were presented with the shield by the Chairman Margaret Tew.

Speaker for the evening, Max Keen, gave a very detailed talk about the History of Dudley Castle. Dressed in chain mail and helmet, he carried his sword and showed many slides of the castle.

The talk was thoroughly enjoyed by everyone. The vote of thanks was given by Sue Wilding on behalf of the members. Refreshments were served by hostesses Joan Biddlestone and Margaret Blower and their helpers.

There were three raffle winners and the sales table, consisting of sweets, chocolate and confectionery, did very well.

Sparkling talk was jewel in the crown



President, Bessie Waters, John Evans and speakers' secretary Pauline Berrington

Dudley South Ladies Luncheon Club

CHAIRMAN Ann Rogers welcomed 36 members to the June luncheon held at The Lodge, Wellington Road. The three-course lunch chosen to suit a lovely summer's day was delicious.

Speaker John Evans handed everyone a pack containing 15 pictures of beautiful tiaras and necklaces belonging to the Crown to illustrate his talk entitled 'Diamonds are the Queen's Best Friend'. This took the form of a travel journey through history connecting all the pieces of jewellery to their monarchs, starting with George IV to the present day. Most of this priceless jewellery has been gifted. The whole talk was enthralling and thoroughly enjoyed.

Ann reminded members there would be no luncheon in August and invited members to a coffee morning at her home on August 3, from 10.30am. There will be refreshments, a raffle and bring and buy stall.

The next meeting is on July 13 when the speaker will be Dr Jonathan White, medical adviser to the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, in September Maureen Wilde will be flower arranging and on October 12 Anthony Collis will talk about the 'Swinging Ladies'.

Quiz team in national final

FIVE members of the West Midlands Federation plus members of Sedgley (E) guild travelled to the Tally Ho! Birmingham to support the quiz team at the national final.

Representing the West Midlands were Joyce Major (Kingswinford Guild) plus

West Mids Federation

Jan Wynn and Ann Craddock (Sedgley E Guild). The team did not manage to win but it was a wonderful day and very much enjoyed.

The annual lunch will be

held at the Copthorne Hotel, Brierley Hill on Monday, July 30. The guest speaker will be John Butterworth who will be talking about hotels that have entertained well known celebrities. Numbers are limited, applications for tickets are needed as soon as possible.

Spring SPECIALS



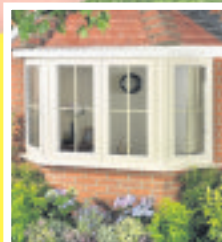
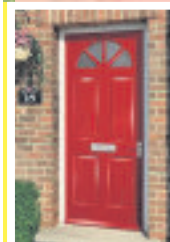
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RAF veterans reunited at Halfpenny Green

SECOND World War veterans turned out for an annual reunion of former RAF air crew at a former wartime airfield near Dudley.

Halfpenny Green Airport, near Bobbington, welcomed around 100 veterans earlier this month.

They watched planes take to the skies and reminisced about their time serving during the event organised by Project Propeller.

Graham Cowie, air operations manager from Project Propeller, said: "Project Propeller is an annual reunion for veterans who served in the Royal Air Force as air crew.

"To serve as air crew you had to be a volunteer, they were all volunteers and nobody was forced to fly an aeroplane over Germany, or wherever.

"The whole ethos of the project is today's aviators giving back a thank you to their aviating forefathers, who flew when the skies were a lot more dangerous than the skies we fly in.

"We got approximately 80 aircraft in from as far afield as Exeter to Dundee in the north. I'm sure have had a memorable day.

"We have had nothing but cooperation from the airfield. From the manager, down to the marshalls, the firemen and the electrician on site – they have been absolutely magnificent."

Many veterans were in attendance to watch aircraft taking off and landing – including a Lancaster bomber.

David Williams Fraser, aged 97, from East Sussex, was a gunner in the RAF who survived being shot down over Germany in 1941.

He said: "This is my third time at this airfield. I became air crew in 1940 as a rear gunner. I only did four op-



Veteran rear gunner Clifford Watson, aged 96, of Cambridge, at Halfpenny Green



Former Lancaster gunner John Cuthbert, aged 92, with pilot Reuben Wells

erations and then I was shot down in Hamburg in 1941 by a Messerschmitt 110. I couldn't fire my gun or move my turret. I was locked in with just enough space to get my parachute and bail out. I was so incensed at not being able to retaliate."

Veteran Clifford Watson, of RAF squadron 227 and 150, and his son John, were flown by pilot Mark Had-

ley, from Peterborough Conington Airfield, for the event. The 96-year-old from Cambridge, who served between 1939 and 1946 and did two tours in North Africa, said: "It was wonderful, the event of the year."

John added: "Dad had a stroke last October and it has taken the wind out of his sails really. A day out here today has been amazing."

Super slimmer hopes to inspire others



Before and after – slimmer Julie Jenkins, wearing the same dress, and is now half the woman she used to be

A SLIMMER from Rowley Regis hopes to inspire others after losing nearly half her body weight in 12 months.

Julie Jenkins, of Heartfields Way, weighed almost 29 stone at her heaviest just over a year ago.

The 49-year-old suffered from a number of health conditions including diabetes, a high BMI and sleep apnoea.

But now, thanks to a combination of exercise and dietary changes, she weighs just over 16-and-a-half stone. After joining her local Slimming World group at Blackheath Central Methodist, her weight loss averaged at around 3.5lbs a week. She said: "I have heard so many times that you won't be able to lose weight until something clicks and that's exactly what happened to me in May 2017. Unhappy with my life and approaching 50, I decided it was time to stop making excuses and take control of my life.

"The more I lost, the more confident I became, and I

began to like myself enough to start taking care of my appearance." She now enjoys walking, playing with her grandchildren and dancing to music.

She is also looking forward to booking her first holiday abroad – and even managed the tricky Christmas, New Year and Easter periods without going off her plan. Julie said her family, Slimming World consultant Ann Deeley and her friends at the group had supported her throughout her journey.

"I used to eat takeaways, a lot of them, even though I was a good cook. I was out of control with my eating," she said.

"I want to inspire people, so I started posting my meals on Instagram (@juliejenkins549) and gained over 145 followers. I want someone to look at me and say because of you I didn't give up."

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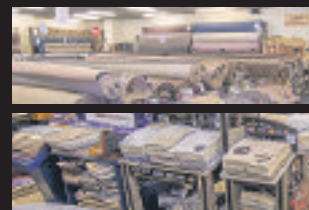
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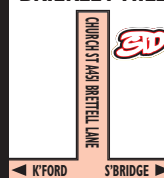
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Dudley Academy Trust **brand new start**



Dudley Academy Trust is embarking on a new era of its development with an ambitious new Strategic Plan and a new image for its schools. Starting from September 2018 High Arcal Academy will be known as Beacon Hill Academy, Holly Hall Academy is becoming Pegasus Academy, Hillcrest Academy is changing to The Link Academy and Castle Academy is to be named St James Academy. The names have been developed by students and mark a new exciting time for the four schools.

Symbol of change

Commenting on the change Lowell Williams Chief Executive Officer, Dudley College of Technology and Chair of the Board of Dudley Academies Trust said: "It's been almost a year since the four Dudley schools came together as part of Dudley Academy Trust and began working together to drive up standards and expectations. The rebranding work has taken

a while to complete as we wanted our young people to be involved and the new names have been chosen to keep a sense of place but act as a symbol of change, reflecting what is going on in our schools."

A new look

The name change means that all learners in the school will wear a new school uniform, part of which will be paid for by the Trust. The parents of all learners are being issued with a voucher entitling them to a new school blazer and tie – free of charge. The rest of the uniform will be items obtainable from supermarket chains and the usual school uniform retailers.

Jo Higgs, Chief Executive Dudley Academy Trust very much sees the new uniform as part of the emphasis on high standards that the schools are driving: "We are creating an aspirational culture in our schools and we want that to be

reflected in the personal pride our learners have in wearing their uniform and belonging to their school."

Talking about the high standards culture Jo says: "We are determined to constantly improve all aspects of teaching and learning and everything that impacts on these. We have introduced a new behaviour policy – that sets out our high expectations, we have recruited new teaching staff to support key areas such as English and mathematics and we are investing heavily in improving our estate."

A strong sponsor

Picking up on the theme of advancement and enhancement Lowell Williams is keen to see even greater connections between the individual academies and Dudley College of Technology, the Trust's sponsor: "This year has seen lots of learners from amongst the Trust's

schools accessing the facilities the college has to offer, to enhance their learning experience. We have superb resources and we are keen to share them with the Trust so young people can experience a rich curriculum and explore many more career options.

"The college and the Trust are planning on working together to provide better careers guidance that empowers young people to make good decisions about their futures."

The Trust's schools may have a new identity and a new uniform but some things are staying the same such as the dedication of the teaching staff and the passion of the Trust's Principals to make a real difference to the lives of Dudley's young people.

Law staff aiming to scale new heights for hospital



Talbots Law charity bike ride and walk fundraisers for Birmingham Children's Hospital pictured at Hagley Hall. MORE than 40 staff from a Black Country law firm are swapping their day roles for hiking boots and Lycra to raise more than £10,000 for Birmingham Children's Hospital.

Solicitors and legal support staff from Talbots Law will be climbing Snowdon, England and Wales' largest mountain, in July, whilst a team of directors - Callum Haynes, Matt

Wistow and Peter Hill - will be tackling a mammoth London to Paris bike ride.

The two challenges were announced at the firm's quarterly Breakfast Club, a networking event that attracts over 70 professionals and local businesses at Hagley Hall.

Kirsty White, corporate fundraising officer at Birmingham Children's Hospital, gave a powerful insight into the work the charity does, looking after 90,000 children and young people every year.

"We are looking to raise more than £30,000 in 2018 and have already donated £10,000 to get the fundraising off to a great start," explained Mary Mocklow, chief executive of Talbots Law.

"The charity has supported a number of our staff so it's a cause close to our heart and everyone is getting involved."

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Independent shops at Plaza Malls

Commercial feature

Nestling in a central position in Dudley Town centre is Plaza Malls. It was opened nearly 10 years ago when owner Tony Swannie foresaw a need to help with the plight of independent small retailer, so they would be able to stay in a key position on the High Street.

Tony says: "With rent and rates escalating and the growth of retail falling, so many small retailers struggled desperately to stay in a main central position within the town centre.

"My vision was to offer affordable, well equipped and quality fitted individual small units and have been able to accommodate both seasoned specialists and also work with new entrepreneurs who wish to go into retail for the first time and develop a retail business.

"We offer them their own shop rather than just a retail area and table offered by a market. By using the principle of a smaller Debenhams and even a scaled down Merry Hill, we have succeeded and given Dudley a wonderful eclectic mix of small retail outlets and a centre to be proud of."

The centre has developed now to include a bar, a gym and a dance studio, as well as a large comfortable café and a wide variety of food shops including a butcher's, a baker's, a delicatessen with take away, cake shop and a Caribbean food specialist.

Among other services are beauty salons that offer eyebrow threading and microblading and a range of body piercings, plus a nail bar and a ladies' hairdresser.

There is also a tattoo studio and a health advice centre. Other services include florist, shoe repair and key cutting along with clothing alterations and cut-price designer spectacles made on site.

Jewellery

Further still you will find a tool shop, cards and gifts galore, Caribbean hair products, mobile phones and repairs, Asian jewellery, and all your vaping supplies. There are perfumes and candles, furniture, watches, white electrical goods, retro toys and games and both children and men's clothing

Tony adds: "We are planning future developments and refurbishments are expected within the next year as Plaza Malls continues to be part of a retail hub at the centre of Dudley. As always, we will work with Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council to further enhance retail within Dudley town centre – keeping it vibrant and fun."

"We know from comments how appreciated Plaza Malls is and we are proud to have been able to serve the people of Dudley and will continue to do so for many years to come.

"We would encourage people who have not visited us in a while to get themselves down to the town centre and into Plaza Malls to enjoy a good day's shopping and grab a few bargains as well."



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Motorcyclist dies in collision near Stourton

A MOTORCYCLIST has died following a crash involving three vehicles near Stourbridge.

The man's Triumph motorcycle was involved in a crash with two other vehicles on the A458 Bridgnorth Road, near Stourton, at around 1.15pm on Saturday. The 48-year-old, from the Oldbury area, suffered serious injuries

in the crash and died at the scene, near to the Fox Inn.

The crash also involved a Mercedes C180 and a Land Rover Evoque.

A spokesman from Staffordshire Police said: "Sadly, the motorcyclist, a 48-year-old man from the Oldbury area, suffered serious injuries and died at the scene. His family are being sup-

ported by specially trained officers at this difficult time."

A West Midlands Ambulance spokesman added: "Crews discovered one patient, a man, who was in cardiac arrest. Ambulance staff administered CPR and advanced life support. Unfortunately it became apparent nothing could be done to save him."

'Zero tolerance' litter blitz patrols raise £82,000 in fines

Leap into action for Wolves



A Wolves shirt has appeared on the Joe Darby statue in Netherton

A STATUE of a renowned Black Country character has become a Wolves fan after it mysteriously appeared wearing an old gold shirt with a Portugal flag wrapped around his neck.

The sculpture of Joe Darby in Halesowen Road, Netherton, was adorned with the colours of an early 2000s Wolves top, apparently to coincide with the unveiling of the club's brand new kit for the upcoming Premier League season. The Portugal flag also draped on the statue was in reference to players from that nation involved in the club's promotion.

Joe Darby, who was originally from Netherton, specialised in spring jumping and took part in competitions in the 1880s. He performed for the Prince of Wales, the future King Edward VII, in London, touring Britain and abroad, including performing with a circus in Paris.

His spring jumping performance would include starting from a standing position and launching himself into the air using dumbbell-shaped weights.

His most famous stunts included leaping over a horse and the length of a billiard table.

COUNCIL chiefs in Dudley borough are clamping down on littering with nearly £82,000 in fines handed out in three months.

In March, April and May this year more than 1,092 notices have been issued in Dudley – compared with just 14 for the same period last year.

Each Fixed Penalty Notice (FPN) issued is £75 – totalling £81,900 in fines issued over the three-month period.

It comes after a team of ex-police and military personnel equipped with body cameras took over patrolling the borough's streets, parks and open spaces in March.

Councillor Karen Shakespeare, cabinet member for environmental services, said the council have a 'zero tolerance' approach to anyone caught littering.

Kingdom Enforcement Services has five officers on the beat plus one team leader overseeing operations during a 12-month pilot, which will also cover dog fouling.

Penalties

The move does not cost the council with Kingdom receiving payment directly as a percentage of the financial penalties issued to those who drop litter or fail to pick up after their pets.

The local authority also retains a percentage of the income from the fixed penalty notices.

Councillor Shakespeare said: "Residents and business have told us that they want to see tougher action against those who blight our landscapes with littering and dog fouling."

"We have a zero tolerance approach towards anyone caught committing these offences and we are pleased to see Kingdom's new enforcement getting swiftly to work."

Mark Mountford, business manager for Kingdom, added: "Our results speak for themselves and the message is simple – if you drop litter or don't pick up after your dogs, there is a good chance you'll be caught and hit in the pocket."

Kingdom has worked with more than 30 local authorities across the country, including Wolverhampton City Council and Birmingham City Council.

Kingdom issued more than 9,000 FPNs in Wolverhampton last year after being taken on by the local authority in the middle of 2015. Comparative figures before they took over in that city show just 25 FPNs were handed out between April 2014 and March 2015.

Healthy griller restaurant plan

NINE jobs could be created under plans to transform a former shop into a restaurant and takeaway.

Plans have been submitted to Dudley Council to turn the vacant former shop in High Street, Dudley, into a healthy grilled food restaurant and takeaway.

A design and access statement submitted with the application states: "The existing site is a corner retail shop. The proposal is for the change of use from retail to restaurant with ancillary providing grilled

healthy food, with proposed new shop front to the High Street and Union Street elevations.

"The proposed change of use would be beneficial for the local community as it would provide for a health style of food, which is limited in the area. The proposed restaurant will help regenerate the current building and help inject money back into the community by providing job. The restaurant seeks to employ six full-time staff and three part-time staff."

Homes bid for old college site

AN ARSON-HIT former school and college campus in Stourbridge is finally to be knocked down to make way for homes.

There have been calls for action over the redundant former Longlands School on Bowling Green Road, which has been empty since Birmingham Metropolitan College closed its doors on the site in 2011, when Stourbridge College art students moved to a campus in Brierley Hill. Stourbridge MP Margot James was involved in talks to find a new

purpose for the large plot located in a residential area.

Under new plans submitted to Dudley Council by Persimmon Homes, the 2.3 hectare site that has become a magnet for vandals would be cleared for the construction of 62 homes.

The buildings have been plagued by a spate of fires and anti-social behaviour.

Councillor Ian Kettle, cabinet member for regeneration and enterprise, said: "I'm delighted an application has been submitted to bring this site back into use."

Miracle baby Jasmine celebrates 21st birthday

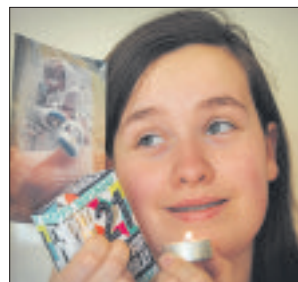
A WOMAN from Kingswinford who battled to survive after being born 11 weeks early is set to celebrate her 21st birthday.

Jasmine Pole was born weighing the same as a bag of sugar, at 2lbs 10oz, after her mother was rushed to hospital for an emergency Caesarian.

Twenty one years later, the former Kingswinford School student has dyspraxia but no other health problems and will be celebrating her big day on Saturday.

She finished a foundation course for children with special needs at Stourbridge College and has obtained her first job at Marks and Spencer in the Merry Hill Shopping Centre.

She said: "I feel proud that I have



Jasmine is celebrating her 21st birthday

come this far. I have special needs so I struggle with social things and my confidence. But I recently managed to get my first job and I never thought I would be able to do that.



Baby Jasmine battled to survive

"Sometimes I think about how I was born prematurely and I think about how well I have done but I would like to become more independent. My mum tells me how proud she is of me."

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An atmospheric view of Bridgnorth from an old lantern slide in John's collection



Son Michael Dixon with some of the enamel signs



Just a taste of John Dixon's extraordinary collection



Bridgnorth market, perhaps in late Victorian times



John Dixon who amassed the collection

John put his stamp on collecting town history

THERE are photos of Bridgnorth. Hundreds and hundreds of them, ranging from Victorian lantern slides, doubled images to be viewed with a stereoscopic viewer, and postcards. Posters, cuttings, old adverts...

The collection of the late John Dixon could be the basis of a small town museum of itself.

However, it is perhaps surprising that Mr Dixon, who died on June 29 last year at the age of 72, was not actually Bridgnorth born and bred.

"He moved to Bridgnorth from the West Midlands in 1978," said son Michael, who has been looking through the vast collection and putting it into order.

Michael, head of faculty for technology, creative and sixth form studies at City of Wolverhampton College, said: "He was Wednesbury born and bred. My mum Kate opened an antique

MEMORY LANE

By Toby Neal

shop in St Johns Street, Bridgnorth. My dad did the import and export for a shipping line and was all over the country. He started collecting items on Bridgnorth, initially postcards, and then went into a whole range of other things, anything really connected with Bridgnorth.

"He had visited the town when he was younger. He loved the town. I think that's why they gravitated there many years later. They had lived at Claverley for about seven years, and then back to the West Midlands, and then to Bridgnorth. I was christened in Claverley.

"He just loved the town. I think he was fascinated with the history of it. He used to go to postcard fairs and later he looked online. He would go to auctions, local antique shops and things like that.

"When he got known people would

bring things to my mum. He had a room upstairs packed to the rafters with Bridgnorth items, some in boxes, some on display.

"They included old prints of Bridgnorth, and posters from old theatres of Bridgnorth. It was only after he died and I was sorting through that I discovered just how much there was.

"I'm interested too. I'm going to keep the collection for the time being. I have sorted a lot and tried to organise it. When you collect yourself sometimes you get a bit overwhelmed, I think.

"I think the enamel signs are fascinating. They were on lampposts for all the old shops in Bridgnorth. This would probably be in the 1950s to 1960s. They came from a Nock Deighton auction. Somebody must have collected them when they took them down from the lampposts or the lampposts were changed."

Another item is a weight which was put into the saddles at the long defunct Bridgnorth races. It is stamped "Bridgnorth (sic) Race Club."

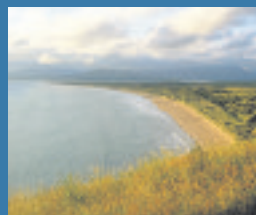


A poster for a play at the New Theatre in 1832

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Llandanwg is one of nine superb five star holiday home parks owned by Salop Caravans (sites) Ltd, to view their websites please use www.caravanparksmidwales.co.uk

Family devastated over airing cupboard tragedy

A FAMILY has spoken of its devastation over the death of a grandmother who was trapped in an airing cupboard while on holiday.

Following an inquest verdict of misadventure, Elizabeth Isherwood's son Craig said: "We are all absolutely devastated. Mum was so sporty, fit and healthy. If anyone could have got out of that cupboard it would have been mum."

Her inquest heard she could have been trying to escape for days before succumbing to hypothermia. She had carved holes in the wall and scratched away at the door.

Mrs Isherwood, known as Mary, of Warmley Close, Whitmore Reans, was staying at the Plas Talgarth holiday complex near Machynlleth in Wales, that she once owned with her ex-husband, in September last year.

Escape

It is thought the ex-police officer may have got up to go to the bathroom but then mistakenly went into the airing cupboard and become entombed. Frantic attempts to escape followed.

Shelves were ripped from the walls and a pipe had been snapped and used as a tool to scratch away at the walls.

But in breaking the pipe she sent water gushing into the cupboard. As she was naked, she developed hypothermia. Other guests reported hearing banging but, thought it was maintenance workers and did not report it.

Investigators found she had managed to smash her way through a wall but there was a picture hanging on the other side. As she was in the dark, it is believed she may not have real-



Elizabeth Isherwood



The Plas Talgarth holiday complex



Elizabeth Isherwood's son Craig and ex-husband Clive

ised she was on the cusp of freedom. Ex-husband, Clive, 65, said: "The staff had given Mary some vouchers to use for a final stay. She would've usually gone with friends but nobody could make it so she went alone."

Her body was found a week later after she failed to check out of the complex and leaking water was discov-

ered coming from her room. Son Craig, 32, said: "She hadn't even unpacked. Her clothes and case were still in the room untouched. Losing her has left a huge hole in our lives."

Coroner Mr Dewi Pritchard Jones told Caernarfon coroner's court he made no finding on why and how the door was closed.

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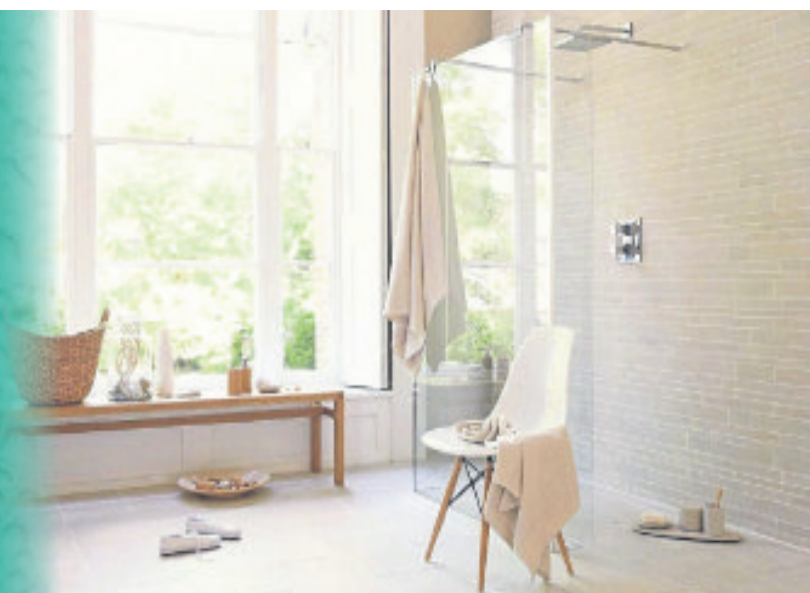
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Living in Dudley

Concerts plan for borough parks

This season's free outdoor band concerts programme has been announced.

The summer shows will be staged at Stevens Park, Quarry Bank; Mary Stevens Park, Stourbridge, and Himley Hall and Park. Sets for the summer include Cleobury Mortimer Concert Brass on Sunday, July 1 and Black Country Brass Band on August 12, all at Stevens Park, Quarry Bank.

At Mary Stevens Park there will be three performances, these are AD Concert Band on July 15, Madi Stimpson Trio on July 29 and Jazz on Tap on September 2. Visitors can enjoy a stroll around the park and youngsters can splash about in the water play area. The Mary Stevens Coffee Lounge (No 92) at Mary Stevens Park will be open for business with its summer opening hours of 8am – 6pm, seven days a week during the summer.

Himley Hall and Park will be hosting three concerts. These are BJ Concert Band on July 22, AD Concert Band on August 5 and Out of the Blue Big Band on August 26.

Councillor Patrick Harley, leader of Dudley Council, said: "These concerts are always really popular and add an extra dimension to a day out in one of our parks. Families are welcome, and it's a great way to make the most of a summers day with a stroll, a picnic and a concert."

Himley's coffee lounge is open 11am to 4pm, Wednesday to Sunday. Concerts run from 2.30pm to 5.30pm and are free. Parking charges apply at Himley.

Thousands of pounds stolen from people on so-called 'sucker lists' have already been reclaimed thanks to a new fraud-busting unit in Dudley.

Dudley Council's Trading Standards was recently given £300,000 over a three-year period to set up a dedicated scams unit to target financial criminals who prey on vulnerable people on these so-called 'sucker lists'.

Since it launched more than five months ago, the team has already visited more than 50 residents who have been targeted by scammers.

In addition, the team has recovered more than £17,000 for victims and is investigating cases that amount to at least £350,000 in losses.

Estimates show that by 2020 there will be one million people on sucker lists, which are used by fraudsters to identify and target their victims.

Vulnerable

The people on these lists are often older, lonely and vulnerable and the criminals know they are more likely to be susceptible to financial scams.

Fraudsters use sophisticated techniques to win people round, earn their trust and in some cases convince them to part with large quantities of cash.

The council has launched a drive to tackle the issue and promote the key warning signs.

If people start to receive large quantities of junk mail, nuisance calls or are visiting the Post Office or bank more often than usual then this could be a sign they are being targeted.

Officers from the unit are visiting vulnerable and lonely people in the community each week and are talking to them about the warning signs of being targeted and are investigating claims of potential scams, which can lead to prosecution.



The team has already visited more than 50 residents who have been targeted

The team is also working closely with social services to refer people who would benefit from some support, whether that is attending local groups and activities or receiving care in the home, to prevent them becoming lonely and isolated.

Councillor Ruth Buttery, cabinet member for health and well-being, said: "This scheme is about making the borough a safe place to live. We want to send a clear sign to fraudsters that their criminal behaviour will not be tolerated in our borough."

"We are taking action and putting support

measures in place for our most vulnerable residents who we know are more likely to be a victim of a financial scam."

"Key to this project's success is a joined-up approach across the council to prevent people becoming lonely and isolated in the first place, meaning they will be less likely to become a victim."

If anyone is concerned that they or someone they know may have fallen victim to financial scams, they should contact the Trading Standards' scams team on 01384 818871 or via trading.standards@dudley.gov.uk

Honour for businessman

Black Country businessman and multi-millionaire Roy Richardson has been officially presented with the freedom of Dudley borough.

Dr Richardson is a familiar face in the business world and is perhaps best known, along with his late twin brother Don, for developing the Merry Hill shopping centre.

Roy is also a member of the Dudley borough business champions group, which helps forge closer links with both Dudley Council and the business community to help boost the economy.

The 88-year-old was presented with the freedom scroll by

the Mayor of Dudley, Councillor Alan Taylor, at a special dinner at Dudley Town Hall earlier this month.

Councillor Taylor said: "Roy Richardson has achieved spectacular success throughout his lifetime. Despite becoming a recognised face and name across the business world, he has always stayed close and true to his Dudley roots."

"He has been a champion for the borough, and the wider Black Country, across the globe. I'm delighted we can highlight the work Roy has done, and the many achievements he has made, in this way."

"He will join a long list of big names to receive the honour, including most recently world tennis star Jordanne Whaley and comedian Lenny Henry."



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Centre offering disability help

People with disabilities and health issues can access information about equipment and support for the home at a new assisted living centre in Quarry Bank.

A one-stop shop for advice and information, it has rooms designed to replicate the traditional home showcasing a range of helpful equipment and aids for the kitchen, bathroom, bedroom and living space for people to try out.



The centre is the second of its type to open in the borough with another one located in Coseley.

Some equipment can be loaned from the Community Equipment Service on a long-term basis and details of suppliers are available.

Councillor Nicolas Barlow said: "Dudley Council prides itself on offering

support for people who want to stay in their home and we are delighted to have opened this new centre.

"People visiting the centre can try out a range of equipment and aids from walking sticks to specialist equipment to help get in and out of the bath."

Any person who lives in Dudley borough and is having trouble with everyday tasks can visit the centres.

People are asked to make a prior appointment by calling the Adult Social Care Access Team on 0300 555 0055, no referral is needed.



Carol Millington, Councillor Nicolas Barlow and Sue Darby help to launch the new campaign called 'pleased to meet you'

Supporting the lonely

As many people make the most of the warmer weather with barbecues and parties, others might be feeling isolated and lonely.

Dudley Council has launched a new campaign called 'pleased to meet you' offering older people who are feeling lonely or isolated the chance to talk to and meet others in Dudley borough.

People aged 60 and over can call the

'pleased to meet you' telephone line for a chat, where a council officer will provide them with support and advice on finding enjoyment and purpose in later life.

Socialise

The council is also starting up groups who can meet to socialise and take part in various activities.

Councillor Nicolas Barlow, cabinet

member for adult social care, said:

"Evidence shows that being lonely can be as bad for your health as smoking 15 cigarettes a day.

"No-one should have to feel isolated or lonely and that is why we are launching this campaign."

For more information people can call 01384 812761 or email communitysupportserv@dudley.gov.uk

Living in Dudley

One-stop shop opens for carers

A new one-stop shop for carers has opened in Dudley.

Dudley Carers Hub provides support, advice and information to carers of all ages living in Dudley borough.

Lots of people in the community provide practical, personal or emotional support to a family member or friend due to their illness, disability, frailty or addiction.



Dudley Carers Hub has been set up to improve the lives of local carers and ensure they receive all of the practical help, advice and support that they need to ease their caring responsibilities.

Support on offer includes things like financial and legal advice, accessing financial help, emotional and wellbeing support, respite services, support planning, social groups, as well as specialist support for young carers and parent carers.

Pop into the hub or give them a call to find out how they can support you with your caring responsibilities and with your life outside of your caring role.

The hub in Wellington Road, Dudley, DY1 1RB, is open between Monday and Friday from 9am to 5pm.

Call 01384 818723 or email carers.network@dudley.gov.uk for more details.



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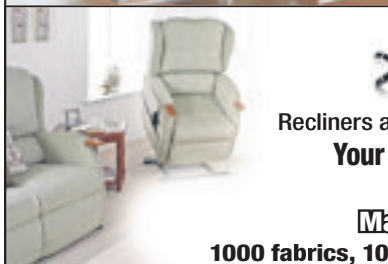


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Living in Dudley

Bostin' good time planned

The countdown to Black Country Day has begun – with a host of bostin' events set to take place.

Road runs, golf tournaments, variety shows and classic car displays are all being put on as part of this year's Black Country Festival.

The first big event of the festival, which runs throughout July, is Armed Forces Day in the grounds of Himley Hall on Sunday.

This year the free family day out marks both the 100th anniversary of the end of World War One, and the centenary of the formation of the RAF.

Another huge event taking place on Sunday is the big Black Country Road Run in Halesowen town centre. Thousands normally take part and there is both a 10k road race and a shorter family fun run or walk. People can register at www.theblackcountryrun.com

A number of fun days and carnivals are also taking place, including Halesowen Carnival on July 7 and Stourbridge Carnival on July 8. A big fun day will be taking place in Stone Street square in Dudley town centre on Saturday, July 14 on Black Country Day itself, while the Brier Fair in Brierley Hill returns on Saturday, July 21.

Elsewhere on Black Country Day, the Black Country Masters Golf Tournament takes place at Dudley Golf Club.

For a full list of events visit www.black-country-festival.co.uk/



Himley Hall and Park is hosting the annual Armed Forces Day on Sunday and the Under 5s day this Friday



Fun for all the family on the bill

Thousands will flock to Himley Hall and Park this summer, thanks to the annual Armed Forces Day and Under 5s Day.

Little ones can enjoy a special day out when it hosts the annual Under 5s day this Friday.

The popular Dudley Council event, which features activities and entertainment for children under the age of five, runs from 10am to 3pm.

Himley Hall and Park's very own beach, complete with giant sandpit, buckets and spades and Punch and Judy Shows will be on offer throughout.

Baby & Toddler Sense, Music Bugs, Rugby Tots, Creation Station, Kung Fu Cubs, Moo Music, Hartbeeps and Baby Ballet will all be making an appearance plus many more. Children can also enjoy train and donkey rides

and a children's funfair will add to the occasion. Tickets are available to purchase now and are 20 per cent cheaper online. People can visit www.himleyhallandpark.co.uk/under5s for more information or to book.

Councillor Ian Kettle said: "The Under 5s day is one of the region's largest preschool events and we are expecting over 4,000 visitors to the park on the big day."

"For the first time this year, we are introducing a 20 per cent saving for parents and carers who wish to book online in advance."

Adult tickets start at £5 and children's at £3.50. Car parking is free.

It's a centenary special at this year's Armed Forces Day, with the Dudley Council event set to mark 100 years since the formation of the Royal Air Force and the end of World War I.

Run in association with Black Country Housing Group, the Himley Hall and Park event will celebrate the work of service men and women past and present on Sunday, July 1 from 11am to 5pm.

Entertainment for all the family including vintage fairground rides, Punch and Judy shows and craft, food and vintage stalls will be on offer.

The Bluebird Belles, a vintage vocal harmony trio, and RAF Cosford Voluntary Band will perform on the day, veterans will be presented with their special medals and badges and there will be a display of current and historic military vehicles. Visitors can also enjoy WWI and WWII themed history talks in the hall.

Councillor Alan Taylor, The Mayor of Dudley, said: "This special event gives us the chance to

reflect on the sacrifices that have been made by those who have served and those who continue to serve in the Armed Forces.

"It is also a wonderful event with a carnival atmosphere and there is something for all ages to enjoy."

Black Country Housing Group, one of the area's leading social housing providers, is the event's principal sponsor. This year's event will also be supported by Blind Monkey Brewery.

Amanda Tomlinson, chief executive at Black Country Housing Group, said: "As a community-focused organisation, we are honoured to be supporting this popular event. Armed Forces Day gives us chance to thank and celebrate the work of those who have served their country and local communities both at home and abroad."

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BID plans to boost trade

Proposals to create a Business Improvement District to improve trade and generate over £700,000 in Stourbridge are moving forward.

At its meeting, Dudley Council's cabinet were asked to approve the proposal for the Stourbridge Business Improvement District (BID) and the associated timescales.

BIDs are made up of local businesses, which each pay a levy, a small percentage of a business's rateable value, to a BID company.

The proposal put forward by the Stourbridge BID organisers, supported by Dudley Council, Stourbridge Chamber of Trade, The Ryemarket Shopping



Centre and other organisations, estimates that approximately £140,000 each year could be generated via the levy.

If proposals are approved by cabinet, businesses would be asked to take part

in a ballot to vote in favour of the proposal later this summer. The funds would then be used on improvements, decided by members of the BID, on things like improved security, events, promotion and the environment. It would be ring-fenced to spend on specific projects.

Councillor Patrick Harley, leader of Dudley Council, said: "BIDs have a proven track record in bringing businesses together to improve their districts, attract additional funding and promote what they have to offer and following on from the success of the Halesowen BID we are delighted to be supporting a similar scheme for Stourbridge."

For more information about the proposals, people can visit www.stourbridgebid.co.uk

Crackdown on littering

A major clampdown on littering in Dudley borough has resulted in a huge increase in the number of Fixed Penalty Notices issued.

For March, April and May this year, over 1,092 notices have been issued compared with just 14 for the same period last year.

Kingdom Enforcement Services, made up of ex-police and military personnel armed with body cameras, took on responsibility for patrolling the borough's streets, parks and open spaces in March.

The firm has five officers on the beat plus one team leader overseeing operations during a 12-month pilot, which will also cover dog fouling from the start of this month.

Penalties

The move is not costing the council a penny, with Kingdom receiving payment directly as a percentage of the financial penalties issued to those who drop litter or fail to pick up after their pets.

The local authority also retains a percentage of the income from the fixed penalty notices.

Councillor Karen Shakespeare, cabinet member for environmental services, said: "Residents and business have told us that they want to see tougher action against those who blight our landscapes with littering and dog fouling."

"We have a zero tolerance approach towards anyone caught committing these offences and we are pleased to see Kingdom's new enforcement getting swiftly to work."



Councillor Karen Shakespeare, member for environmental services, said they have a zero tolerance policy

Mark Mountford, business manager for Kingdom, said: "Our results speak for themselves and the message is simple – if you drop litter or don't pick up after your dogs, there is a good chance you'll be caught and hit in the pocket."

Kingdom has a proven track record of success and works with more than 30 local authorities across the country, including Wolverhampton City Council and Birmingham City Council. Kingdom issued more than

9,000 FPNs in Wolverhampton last year after being taken on by the local authority in the middle of 2015. Comparative figures before they took over show just 25 were handed out from April 2014 to March 2015.

Living in
Dudley

Reminder to get recycling

Footie fans are reminded to toss those empties into their recycling box rather than the bin during the World Cup

Recent statistics have predicted that 86 per cent of the population is planning to watch the World Cup at home, splashing out £240m on food and £297m on alcohol if England makes it through to the second round. With this rising to staggering £1.12bn if they make it to the final.

Locally, this could mean a huge increase in the amount of beer bottles, canned lager, fizzy drinks, ready meals and takeaways being purchased. Much of this packaging can be recycled and council bosses are encouraging people to aim for their black box, rather than the bin.

Cardboard food packaging can be put into the blue recycling bag. The recycled items will be turned into pulp and refashioned into new items including cards, paper and even road surface materials. Glass bottles, minus their caps should be placed into the black box, with the top removed. Glass can be recycled many times, into further bottles, and even insulation materials.

Plastic drinks bottles can go into the green recycling bag. The council does not recycle any type of plastic other than bottles.

For more information visit www.recyclefordudley.org.uk



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Living in Dudley

State-of-the-art pitch is now open

The beautiful game is looking better than ever in Dudley borough thanks to a brand new state-of-the-art pitch now open at the Dell Stadium.

The floodlit 3G artificial grass pitch has been developed thanks to investment from the Premier League, The FA and the Government, via Sport England.



Creation of the pitch has cost a total of £644,000 – made up of £543,927 funding from the Premier League and The FA Facilities Fund and £100,000 from Dudley Council.

The council is working closely with the Birmingham County FA and the Football

Foundation to ensure local people and clubs will get the most out of the new pitch.

Partner clubs use the new pitch as a home base whilst Dudley Town FC, Gornal Colts FC, the Stourbridge & District Youth Football League and Wolves Community Trust are amongst the many other organisations able to take advantage of the new playing surface.

The investment is in addition to the council's commitment to invest £24.5m in the wider leisure service, which includes plans for a new leisure centre in Dudley, as well as refurbishing and modernising the existing leisure centres in Halesowen and Stourbridge.

Any booking enquiries for the new pitches should be made to Steve Gay, area manager at steve.gay@dudley.gov.uk



A whole host of activities will be taking place across the borough during play week which starts on July 30



Free fun at play week

There will be free games, sports and craft activities galore for children to enjoy this summer as the popular Dudley Play Week returns.

Back for a tenth year, the popular event organised by Dudley Council will run from Monday, July 30 through to Friday, August 3.

During the week there will be group games, sports, camp fires, den building, a climbing wall, craft activities, a baby zone, assault courses, skittles, tug of war, bouncy castles, food court and stalls.

Most of the activities on offer during Dudley Play Week are free of charge.

Last year's play week was extremely successful with thousands of youngsters attending over five days.

Activities

This year's events will be taking place at Huntingtree Park, Halesowen, on Monday, July 30; Silver Jubilee Park, Coseley, on Tuesday, July 31; Mary Stevens Park, Stourbridge, on Wednesday, August 1; Priory Park, Dudley, on Thursday, August

2; and The Dell Stadium and Fens Pool in Pensnett on Friday, August 3.

Activities take place daily between 12noon and 4pm.

Children attending must be registered on arrival at the registration tent and must be accompanied by an adult at all times.

For more information about activities taking place as part of Play Week, or to request a stall for the event, go to www.sycamoreadventure.co.uk, email play@sycamoreadventure.co.uk or call 01384 813755.



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Go behind the scenes at hall

Living in
Dudley

27

Dudley Chronicle Thursday, June 28, 2018



Visitors will have the opportunity to look round rooms not usually open to the public and learn how successive owners of the hall have stamped their own personality on it

People can take a look behind the scenes at Himley Hall this summer with a season of guided tours starting in July.

Visitors will have the opportunity to look round rooms not usually open to the public and can learn how successive owners of the hall have made changes to and stamped their own personality on the historic building.

The extensive guided tours take in the servants' quarters and cellars, the butler's sitting room and the Earl of Dudley's bedrooms. Visitors can also see the refurbished north wing complete with Art Deco-style swimming pool room and cinema bar, now used as a popular wedding venue.

The tour of the hall lasts for approximately 90 minutes and is followed by tea, coffee and

homemade biscuits. Tours cost £8 per person with refreshments included in the price.

There has been a hall on the site since the 1600s when the original Himley Hall was a moated manor house, which stood next to the medieval church and village. For over four centuries, it served as a home to the Lords of Dudley and their knights.

It has seen many changes over the years with significant work undertaken in the 1800s when John William Ward became 4th Viscount Dudley. To reflect his growing status and wealth he brought in the famous London architect William Atkinson, creating the template for the hall as it is today.

In 1920, Witley Court was sold to Viscount Ednam, a close friend of the royal family.

Himley became a regular weekend retreat for royal visitors.

During this period the hall was brought up to contemporary standards, with the addition of a terrace around the hall, a tennis court and a nine-hole golf course.

Modern amenities were introduced to the hall including plumbing, central heating, a cinema and a swimming pool. As an up-to-date, luxurious home, it was so fashionable that in 1934 the Duke and Duchess of Kent spent the first two weeks of their honeymoon at Himley.

Councillor Ian Kettle, cabinet member for regeneration and enterprise, said: "It is a delight to be able to confirm that Himley Hall is once again hosting these tours, which give

people the chance to see parts of the building not usually open to the general public.

"The tours provide a fascinating insight into the life of this remarkable hall, its varied and rich history, its architecture and the many esteemed individuals who have visited and resided within it."

Tours start at 7.15pm and 7.30pm on selected Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays (July 10, 12 and 18 and August 2, 8, 16, 22, 23, 29 and 30). There are 24 places available each evening with each tour accommodating up to 12 people.

Places are limited and must be booked in advance by calling the hall reception on 01384 817817 or visit www.himleyhallandpark.co.uk

Afternoon tea on menu at Himley

If you are looking to buy a special gift for the person who has everything, why not get them a voucher for afternoon tea at Himley Hall?

The 18th century historic building, which has entertained royalty and gentry, now offers indulgent afternoon tea throughout the year.

The experience includes expertly blended tea, and homemade sandwiches, cakes and scones served in one of the period rooms. Visitors can then enjoy the Capability Brown landscaped grounds, or visit the south galleries to view artwork by local artists. Vouchers are per person and start at

£21, with the option to upgrade to sparkling Prosecco or refreshing gin and tonic for £24.50.

Councillor Ian Kettle said: "These afternoon teas are very successful and sell out quickly. The venue is truly magnificent and provides the opportunity for visitors to burn off some of the calories they've consumed by strolling around the beautifully landscaped gardens."

Afternoon Tea at Himley must be pre-booked and is offered on specific dates – see www.himleyhallandpark.co.uk for a full list of availability.

Vouchers can be purchased online at www.himleyhallandpark.co.uk, by calling 01384 817817, or directly from the venue.



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Living in Dudley

Top tips to stay safe in the sun

With summer upon us, and temperatures starting to soar, it's important to keep safe in the sun.

Sunburn increases your risk of skin cancer. So whether you are at home or abroad, use shade, clothing and at least factor 15 or above sunscreen to protect yourself from sunburn.

Follow this simple advice and you'll have a great summer to remember.

- Use factor (SPF) 15 or above sunscreen that has at least four-star UVA protection. Use it generously and regularly. Apply plenty 15-30 minutes before going out in the sun, and reapply every two hours and straight after swimming and towel-drying.

- Take extra care with children – Young skin is delicate. Keep babies out of the sun, especially around midday.

- Cover up with a T-shirt, hat and sunglasses.

- Spend time in the shade between 11am and 3pm – The sun is most damaging to your skin in the middle of the day. Find shade under umbrellas, trees, canopies or indoors.

- Avoid sunbeds – Sunbeds are not a safe alternative to tanning in the sun. The intensity of some of the UV rays they give off can be 10-15 times higher than that of the midday sun.

Always report unusual moles or skin changes to your doctor

For more information about sun awareness visit: NHS Choices or Cancer Research.



Members can enjoy unlimited use of swimming pools, Lifestyles gyms, fitness classes, badminton and squash (off peak) and more

Offer helps you get fit

Get fit and active with a new fitness offer from Dudley Council.

Dudley Council is offering discounted membership at Crystal, Dudley and Halesowen leisure centres this summer, just in time for people inspired by the World Cup to get fit.

Until July 15, people can sign up for a discounted membership of just £20.18 per month – a saving of £9.32 per month against the standard membership.

Members can enjoy unlimited use of the swimming pools, Lifestyles gyms, fitness classes, badminton and squash (off peak)

and more. The offer also includes a free gym induction worth £20.

Councillor Ian Kettle, cabinet member for regeneration and enterprise, said: "This is a great offer and will help people, inspired by the World Cup to get fit over the summer."

Facilities

"Our leisure centres offer a fantastic range of facilities, from swimming sessions, to fitness classes to high quality gyms."

Membership will increase to £24/£29.50

per month from November 1, 2018. The offer is open to new customers only.

For terms and conditions on the offer call 01384 812800, or visit www.dudley.gov.uk/ sport

Leisure centre activities are part of a borough-wide, council aim to encourage increased participation in sport and physical activity along with the Let's Get Healthy initiative, which also supports people to make healthy lifestyle changes. For more information visit www.lets-get.com or search @LetsgethealthyD on Twitter or @HealthyDudley on Facebook.

Foster a child and transform a life



People interested in fostering are being encouraged to visit Dudley Council's dedicated website to take the first step in transforming a child's life.

Dudley Council's fostering service is encouraging people to take the first step in fostering, by visiting their website www.fosteringindudley.org.uk to find out more about the 'best job in the world'.

Fostering for Dudley promises 24/7 support and guidance, as well the opportunity to make a difference to the life of a child.

The website has lots of information and answers to questions people thinking about fostering may have, it also has videos of existing foster carers talking about what it's really like to foster.

The service is keen to hear from anyone interested in fostering but in particular from those who would like to care for teenagers, children with disabilities or those who could take more than one child so brothers and sisters can stay together. They would also like to hear from people interested in long-term fostering.

People can find out more about fostering in Dudley by visiting www.fosteringindudley.org.uk emailing dudleycouncilplus@dudley.gov.uk or calling 01384 815833.

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It's won more than 85 international awards. Matilda The Musical is the multi-award winning musical from the Royal Shakespeare Company, inspired by the beloved book by the incomparable Roald Dahl.

With the book by Dennis Kelly and original songs by Tim Minchin, Matilda The Musical is the story of an extraordinary little girl who, armed with a vivid imagination and a sharp mind, dares to take a stand and change her own destiny.

The show continues to delight audiences in London, Australia and on tour around the USA and a major new production will open at Birmingham Hippodrome on Tuesday, running until September 8.

It stars Craigie Els, who will reprise the role of Miss Trunchbull having played her in the West End for three years between 2014 and 2017. He will be joined by Carly Thoms as Miss Honey, and Sebastian Torkia and Rebecca Thornhill as Mr and Mrs Wormwood.

Craigie trained at Drama Studio London and Aberystwyth University before going on to appear in a series of hit shows. He loves playing Miss Trunchbull and is thrilled to bring it out of the West End to Birmingham.

"Baddies are always the best to play, plus I am too old to play Matilda so there is no chance there. With the role of Miss Trunchbull, I think everyone who has played it will agree that roles like that don't come along that often, they are beautifully written characters but yet so mean and horrible that it gives you the chance to make them as real and as mean as possible but also make them entertaining at the same time. It is most definitely a wonderful and unique challenge and that's why I have enjoyed doing it for so long. Roles like this do not come along that often.

"In the West End you get pretty much a West End crowd with a lot of tourists, so it's nice to take the show to regional places and have local crowds come and watch it and we are in our second venue of the tour and already the crowds are loving it."

PLEASURE

Craigie decided to get into acting as a teenager. It was a surprise to his family but they were supportive and eventually thrilled when he made a go of it.

"I decided that when I was about 15 or 16 that I wanted to do acting and it was a bit of a shock to my family because there were no drama clubs near me and my school didn't even offer it as a subject at GCSE or A Level. For me, it came from enjoying making my friends laugh and making my mum and nan giggle on the weekends. I found that pleasure in entertaining people and I decided I wanted to pursue that. So I went to university and studied drama at Aberystwyth University for three years and then after that I went and did a one-year postgraduate at Drama Studio London where I was able to concentrate more on the practical side of it all. After that like the thousands of others, I left drama school and joined the big wide world and started to audition for things."

Craigie isn't the only one happy that Matilda is on the road. Dennis Kelly, who wrote the show, said: "It's been a long time coming but I'm delighted that we get to take Matilda around the UK and to Ireland. We have some fantastic theatres, supported by smart, engaged audiences and we can't wait to bring this crazy, messy, anarchic explosion of a show to them."

Tim Minchin, who wrote the show's

Award-winner – Matilda The Musical arrives in Birmingham



music and lyrics, said: "I – like millions of others – feel like Roald Dahl is in my blood, because I grew up with his books. So to have contributed to a piece of work that brings one of his most famous stories to life is one of my life's great joys. I'm utterly thrilled that audiences in cities all across the UK and Ireland will now share and be part of Matilda's story."

And Catherine Mallyon, RSC executive director, adds: "We are thrilled our home-grown miracle, which started life after a seven year gestation in Stratford-upon-Avon, has grown into a bit of a global phenomenon. Following Matilda's successful run on Broadway, our current tours around North America, Australia and New Zealand, and continuing into our sixth year at the Cambridge Theatre in London's West End, it is fantastic that we can share Matilda with audiences around the UK and in Ireland. In collaboration with our touring partners we will also deliver a programme of ground-breaking interactive education projects to enable young people to emulate

I – like millions of others – feel like Roald Dahl is in my blood

Matilda, sharing the extraordinary power of story-telling and the boundless creativity of their imaginations."

Matilda The Musical has now been seen by more than 7.7 million people worldwide. Having swept the board at the 2012 Olivier Awards, with a record-breaking seven awards, and winning four Tony Awards and a Tony Honor for Excellence in the Theatre for the four girls sharing the title role on Broadway, Matilda The Musical has now played in more than 60 cities and has played 5,500 performances worldwide.

After winning a Sydney Theatre Award for Best Musical in 2015, the Australian and New Zealand tour has now played sold-out seasons in Melbourne, Brisbane, Perth, Adelaide and Auckland. In July 2016, Matilda The Musical broke further records by winning all 13 Helpmann Awards for which it was nominated. The show will have its first non-English language production at the LG Arts Centre in Seoul, South Korea from September 2018 until February 2019.

Andy Richardson

● For more entertainment news and reviews see The Ticket in your Express & Star every Friday.

Paul Heaton and Jacqui Abbott



Beautiful duo are back together at Forest Live

IT'S been a remarkable return to the top for singer Paul Heaton.

The former Housemartins and Beautiful South singer seemed to have drifted from the nation's radar as a run of solo albums failed to reach the same dizzy heights as records with his former bands.

However, since reuniting with former Beautiful South singer Jacqui Abbott with 2014's *What Have We Become?*, Heaton has enjoyed a new lease of life.

The duo will be in concert on Saturday at Cannock Chase for Forest Live with support from Billy Bragg.

What Have We Become? earned Heaton and Abbott a gold disc, glowing reviews and a series of sell-out shows. The follow-up, *Wisdom, Laughter and Lies*, was another hit.

Heaton said he'd felt honoured to renew his working relationship with Abbott, having played together in The Beautiful South for six years from 1994 to 2000.

He said: "Jacqui is one of the best singers I've worked with and is also part of my past. That album came together easily because we work so well together. The album title *Wisdom, Laughter and Lies* derived from a line in one of the songs and it sort of summed up where I was in life."

Abbott said: "It's just great to be singing again. We had such a good run together previously and it's just a real pleasure to be working with him again and singing these fantastic songs."

Last year the duo resumed their partnership for their third collaborative record, *Crooked Calypso*.

By George, travel broadens the mind



George Ezra will be enjoying the great outdoors this summer with a series of festival and racecourse concerts, including his headline set at Forest Live on Cannock Chase this Sunday.

Ezra is one of the biggest selling male artists of the decade and destined for more success thanks to chart-topping second album, *Staying At Tamara's* and single *Shotgun*, fast becoming THE song of summer 2018.

His debut, *Wanted On Voyage*,

was certified four times platinum in the UK, and was amongst the top 10 biggest selling artist albums in this country in both 2014 and 2015, reaching number one in the UK chart and spending 122 weeks in the chart. It yielded hit singles *Budapest* and *Blame It On Me*.

In little more than 18 months, the tall mellow-voiced singer-songwriter from Hertfordshire went from virtual unknown to one of the biggest international breakthrough artists of recent times with a top 10 album in 10 countries and three sold out UK tours.

George returned last summer with a new single *Don't Matter Now*

and sold out tour, and a summer of festival performances.

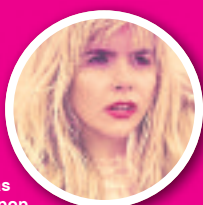
His new album features hit singles *Paradise* and *Shotgun*. Like his debut, *Staying At Tamara's* was inspired by George's travels – including spells on the Isle of Skye; at a pig farm in Norfolk; in a shed in Kent; a converted cow shed in Wales; and an Airbnb in Barcelona owned by the Tamara of the title. The result is a finger-snapping, brass-blaring, wind-in-the-hair album that shines with positivity alongside moments of reflection.

His concert will be the last of three sold out nights at Forest Live.

Paloma makes own kind of music

Paloma Faith finally made it to the top of the charts with her fourth album, *The Architect*. She had enjoyed three successive number two albums but reached the coveted top spot for the first time in November.

Her most recent single was a cover of Mann and Weil pop classic *Make Your Own Kind Of Music*, a hit for Mama Cass Elliot in 1969, helped by its inclusion on TV advertising for Skoda cars. She headlines the first of the weekend's three Forest Live concerts tomorrow (Friday).



Marley brings reggae sounds from Stony Hill

Grammy Award winner Damian 'Jr Gong' Marley is in concert at Birmingham's O2 Academy on Saturday. The youngest son of reggae legend Bob Marley, Damian garnered his own place in music history when he became the first ever reggae artist to win a Grammy outside the 'Reggae' category, taking home an award for 'Best Urban/Alternative' performance for his 2005 breakthrough single *Welcome To Jamrock*. He has gone on to collaborate with Gwen Stefani, Nas, Cypress Hill, Sean Paul, Skrillex and with Jay-Z, featuring on the latter's track *Bam* from the 4.44 album.

Marley's fourth studio album *Stony Hill* won last year's Grammy for best reggae album, marking the third time the 39-year-old singer, songwriter and record producer has won the award.

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CHOICE



Eric Clapton
Eric Clapton: Life in 12 Bars (BBC2, 9pm)
Documentary profiling the blues guitarist, narrated by the man himself, as he charts his six decades in the music business, and why his insatiable desire to grow his artistic voice led him to quit a stream of successful bands, from the Yardbirds and John Mayall and the Bluesbreakers to short-lived supergroups Cream and Blind Faith. Clapton also talks about his battles with drugs and alcohol, his love for George Harrison's wife Pattie Boyd and the tragic loss of his son in an accident. Including archive interviews with BB King, George Harrison and Jimi Hendrix.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Live. **11.30** Simply Nigella. (R) **12.00** Bargain Hunt. (R) **1.00** BBC News. Weather. **1.15** Wanted Down Under. (R) **2.00** Escape to the Country. (R) **2.30** Garden Rescue. (R) **3.15** Money for Nothing. (R) **4.15** Film: Monsters vs Aliens. (2009) Animated sci-fi comedy, with the voice of Reese Witherspoon. **5.40** Celebrity Mastermind. (R) **6.10** BBC News. **6.20** BBC Regional News: Weather. **6.30** **Pointless Celebrities.** Tim Rice, Don Black, Connie Fisher, Siobhan Dillon, Claire Sweeney, Nigel Planer, Cory English and Phill Jupitus take part. (R) **7.20** **Who Dares Wins.** Game show in which two pairs of complete strangers team up, each battling to outdo the other by listing as much as they know about a given subject. **8.00** **Inspector George Gently.** The first of two final cases for the detective, played by Martin Shaw. Gently is on the brink of retirement when he, Bacchus and Coles re-open the case of a woman convicted of killing her husband, hoping to uncover a long-buried miscarriage of justice. However, the investigation places Gently's career on the line and stirs up tension with Bacchus, who worked on the original investigation. (R) **9.30** **Mrs Brown's Boys.** Trevor has decided to work for a mission project in Africa, so Agnes resolves to give him an unforgettable send-off, while Cathy's family counselling session descends into chaos. (R) **10.00** BBC News: Weather; National Lottery Update. **10.20** MOTD: FIFA World Cup 2018 Highlights. **11.05** MOTD: FIFA World Cup 2018 Replay. **12.45** Weather for the Week Ahead. **12.50** BBC News. **In the event of live football being shown, the schedule may run as follows:** **2.30** MOTD Live: FIFA World Cup 2018 (S) **5.10** Money for Nothing (S, R) **6.10** News (S) **6.20** Local News: Weather (S) **6.30** MOTD Live: FIFA World Cup 2018 (S) **9.15** Mrs Brown's Boys (S, R) **9.45** News: Weather (S) **10.05** Little Fockers (2010) (S) **11.35** MOTD: FIFA World Cup 2018 Replay (S) **1.20** BBC News (S)

BBC2

6.25 David Attenborough's Natural Curiosities. (R) **6.45** Absolute Genius Super Tech with Dick & Dom. **7.15** Officially Amazing Goes Bunkers. **7.45** The Dengineers. (R) **8.15** Naom's Nightmares of Nature. (R) **8.45** Deadly Dinosaurs with Steve Backshall. (R) **9.15** Natural Born Winners. (R) **10.15** Homes Under the Hammer. (R) **11.15** Second Chance Summer: Tuscany. (R) **12.15** Tennis: Eastbourne, The Nature Valley International final. **3.00** Coast. (R) **3.25** Natural World: Madagascar, Lemurs and Spies. (R) **4.25** The World's Most Extraordinary Homes. (R) **5.25** The World Cup: Heroes of '66. Dan Walker presents a profile of the World Cup-winning squad managed by Alf Ramsey, featuring interviews with Geoff Hurst, Bobby Moore, Gordon Banks and Jack and Bobby Charlton. (R) **6.00** **Managing England: The Impossible Job.** A look at the history of the role of England football manager, featuring interviews with current boss Gareth Southgate and former incumbents including Sven-Goran Eriksson. (R) **7.00** **Coastal Path.** Explorer Paul Rose takes in the north Cornish coast, touring Tintagel Castle, experiencing the hustle and bustle of Padstow's 'Obby 'Oss festival, and visiting St Ives. (R) **7.30** **Dad's Army.** Mainwaring and the platoon try to capture three German airmen who have landed in a lake after bailing out and intend to stay in their dinghy until nightfall. (R) **8.00** **The NHS: To Provide All People.** A film poem charting a day in the life of a regional hospital. Written by Owen Sheers to mark the birth of the NHS 70 years ago and performed by a stellar cast of acting talent. **9.00** **Eric Clapton: Life in 12 Bars.** Documentary profiling the blues guitarist, touching on his battles with drugs and alcohol and why his desire to grow his artistic voice led him to quit a stream of successful bands. **11.05** Film: **Sex & Drugs & Rock & Roll.** (2010) Biopic of influential punk singer Ian Dury, focusing on the impact his rise to fame and volatile personality had on his relationship with his son. With Andy Serkis and Bill Milner. **12.55** Film: Mea Culpa. (2014) **2.20** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Sooty. **6.10** Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. **6.20** Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. **6.35** Dino Dana. **6.50** Mission Employable. **6.55** The Oddbods Show. **7.05** NinjaGo: Tournament of Elements. **7.30** The Haunted Hathaways. **7.55** Drop Dead Weird. **8.25** ITV News. **8.30** Zoe Ball on Saturday. **9.25** James Martin's American Adventure. (R) **9.55** Long Lost Family: What Happened Next. **10.55** The Best of the Voice Worldwide. **11.50** ITV News: Weather. **12.00** ITV Racing: Live from Newcastle. **2.30** Countrywise. (R) **3.00** Tenable. (R) **4.00** Celebrity Tipping Point. (R) **5.00** The Chase. (R) **6.00** ITV News: Weather. **6.15** ITV News London: Weather. **6.30** **Film: The Amazing Spider-Man.** (2012) A gifted teenager investigates the secrets hidden in his dead parents' past, leading him to a mysterious corporation and an incident that imbues him with superhuman powers. A personal tragedy drives him to use his new-found abilities to fight crime, and he is soon drawn into a deadly battle against a former colleague of his father, who has undergone a devastating transformation of his own. Superhero adventure reboot, starring Andrew Garfield, Emma Stone and Rhys Ifans. **9.00** **Bear's Mission with Anthony Joshua.** Adventurer Bear Grylls teaches the unified world heavyweight champion some alternative survival skills. The duo start off on the notorious Commando Ridge in Cornwall, where the boxer has to climb granite rock, alone traverses and sharp pinnacles. Next, Bear surprises AJ with a tricky descent – a major challenge for anyone nervous of heights – with a "death drop" on all sides. (R) **10.00** ITV News: Weather. **10.15** FIFA World Cup 2018 Highlights. **11.15** Film: **Rocky IV.** (1985) **1.00** Jackpot247. **3.00** Mr Selfridge. **In the event of live football being shown, the schedule may run as follows:** **2.30** FIFA World Cup 2018 (S) **5.15** Catchphrase (S, R) **6.00** News: Weather (S) **6.15** Local News: Weather (S) **6.30** FIFA World Cup 2018 (S) **9.15** Bear's Mission with Anthony Joshua (S, R) **10.00** News: Weather (S) **10.20** Rocky IV (1985) (S) **12.05** Jackpot247 **3.00** Mr Selfridge (S, R) **3.50** Nightscreen

CHANNEL 4

6.20 The King of Queens. (R) **6.45** The King of Queens. (R) **7.10** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **7.35** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.00** Frasier. (R) **8.30** Frasier. (R) **9.00** Frasier. (R) **9.30** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **10.00** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **10.25** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **10.55** Formula 1 Austrian Grand Prix Practice 3 Live. Further coverage from the ninth round of the season at Red Bull Ring in Spielberg. **12.25** F1 Meets Murray Walker. (R) **12.55** Formula 1 Austrian Grand Prix Qualifying Live. Coverage from Red Bull Ring in Spielberg (Start-time 2.00pm). **3.45** A Place in the Sun: Winter Sun. (R) **4.45** Escape to the Chateau: DIY. (R) **5.50** Channel 4 News. **6.20** **Film: Titanic.** (1997) A party of explorers studying the sunken remains of the famous liner meets an elderly woman who was a passenger on the ill-fated maiden voyage. She recounts how she boarded the ship while on the brink of being forced into marriage by her family, and was stopped from killing herself by a penniless artist. She fell in love with her saviour, but the disaster on the horizon meant their time together was doomed to be short. James Cameron's Oscar-winning romantic drama, starring Kate Winslet, Leonardo DiCaprio, Billy Zane, Kathy Bates and Bill Paxton. **10.00** Film: **Taken 2.** (2012) Former CIA agent Bryan Mills fights to rescue his ex-wife from an Albanian gangster whose son he killed. Action thriller sequel, starring Liam Neeson and Famke Janssen. **11.50** **Micky Flanagan: Back in the Game.** The comedian performs to his home crowd at London's Hackney Empire, regaling his audience with tales of middle age, marriage and a man's prerogative. (R) **1.20** The Big Narstie Show. The Grime MC and co-host Mo the Comedian present a late-night, alternative entertainment show, joined by celebrity guests to discuss the week's news, TV and trends. (R) **2.15** Hollyoaks. Omnibus. Joel decides to focus on Cleo's health and buys them both fitness watches, while Holly is worried she has made a big mistake. (R) **4.25** Kirstie's Fill Your House for Free. Kirstie Allsopp helps a couple transform their suburban semi. (R) **4.45** Wedding Town. The star faces one of the busiest days of the year. (R) **5.10** Cheap Cheap Cheap. Marijana takes fashion inspiration from Noel. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! **10.10** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. (R) **10.40** Cats Make You Laugh Out Loud. **11.05** Police Interceptors. (R) **12.05** Police Interceptors. (R) **1.05** Nightmare Tenants, Slum Landlords. (R) **2.05** Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away! (R) **3.05** Film: Legally Blonde 2: Red, White and Blonde. (2003) Comedy sequel, starring Reese Witherspoon. **4.10** Access. **4.15** Film: Legally Blonde 2: Red, White and Blonde. (2003) Concluded. **4.55** 5 News Weekend. **5.00** The Wonderful World of Puppies. **6.00** **Blind Date.** Paul O'Grady hosts as model and self-confessed attention seeker Plum and dancer Jose each choose between three unseen suitors, based on their answers to a series of questions. **7.00** **Karen Carpenter: Goodbye to Love.** Part-dramatised documentary detailing the pop icon's career through the 1970s, when she and older brother Richard clocked up 80 million record sales, to her untimely death from anorexia nervosa. At the age of 32, Richard's addiction to prescription sleeping pills is also explored, as is Karen's abuse of a variety of drugs including laxatives, vomit-inducing syrup and thyroid medication which she illicitly took to speed up her metabolism. Featuring testimony from friends and Carpenters insiders, including Karen's lovers, close advisers and singer Dionne Warwick. Narrated by Iain Glenn. (R) **9.00** **Carpenters: Their Greatest Hits.** Performances and official music videos of 16 songs featuring the brother-and-sister duo. Narrator Ken Bruce also offers interesting facts regarding Richard and Karen's act. (R) **10.00** **The Michael McIntyre Story.** Documentary about the comedian's rise to fame, examining his breakthrough performance at the 2006 Royal Variety show and role in the reinvention of stand-up comedy on TV. (R) **11.30** **Michael McIntyre: Live at the Comedy Store.** The comedian performs at the famous Soho comedy club. (R) **12.00** SuperCasino. **2.40** Film: Fight Club. (1999) **5.00** Access. **5.10** House Busters. (R) **5.35** Wildlife SOS. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Four **7.00** Earth's Greatest Spectacles **8.00** Simon King's Shetland Diaries **9.00** Hidden **10.00** Timeshift: The Rules of Rinkring **11.00** Sound of Cinema: The Music That Made the Movies **12.00** Indie Classics at the BBC **1.00** Top of the Pops: 1985 **1.30** Duran Duran: A Night In **2.30** Simon King's Shetland Diaries **3.30** Close **ITV2** **11.40** Catchphrase **12.25** Film: Around the World in 80 Days (2004) **1.30** FYI Daily **1.35** Film: Around the World in 80 Days (2004) **2.50** Film: Beethoven (1992) **3.55** FYI Daily **4.00** Film: Beethoven (1992) **4.35** Film: Happy Feet (2006) **5.40** FYI Daily **5.45** Film: Happy Feet (2006) **6.45** Film: Step Up 3 (2010) **7.50** FYI Daily **7.55** Film: Step Up 3 (2010) **9.00** Love Island: The Week Hot List **10.05** Celebrity Juice **10.50** Family Guy **12.20** American Dad! **1.20** CelebAbility **2.00** Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records **2.50** Teleshopping **5.50** ITV2 Nightscreen **ITV3** **3.00** Vera **5.00** Midsomer Murders **7.00** Maigret **9.00** Endeavour **11.00** Vera **1.00** Honest **2.00** ITV3 Nightscreen **2.30** Teleshopping **ITV4** **12.00** Cash Cowboys **1.00** Pawn Stars **1.30** Film: The War Wagon (1967) **2.30** FYI Daily **2.35** Film: The War Wagon (1967) **3.40** Film: The Alamo (1960) **4.45** FYI Daily **4.50** Film: The Alamo (1960) **6.55** The Chase: Celebrity Special **8.00** River Monsters **9.00** Film: The Gauntlet (1977) **10.00** FYI Daily **10.05** Film: The Gauntlet (1977) **11.15** Film: Born to Raise Hell (2010) **12.15** FYI Daily **12.20** Film: Born to Raise Hell (2010) **1.20** Minder **2.20** The Protectors **2.45** ITV4 Nightscreen **3.00** Teleshopping **E4** **11.05** The Goldbergs **1.05** Brooklyn Nine-Nine **2.05** Young Sheldon **2.40** Film: Cheaper by the Dozen 2 (2005) **4.30** The Big Bang Theory **9.00** Film: AVP: Alien vs Predator (2004) **10.50** Gogglebox **1.00** Tattoo Fixers **2.05** Rude Tube **4.15** Rude (ish) Tube **4.40** How I Met Your Mother **Film4** **11.00** Fletch (1985) **1.00** How to Train Your Dragon (2010) **2.50** Mr Popper's Penguins (2011) **4.40** Night at the Museum (2006) **6.50** Ride Along (2014) **9.00** Commando (1985) **10.45** Green Room (2015) **12.35** Blue Ruin (2014) **2.20** In Fear (2013) **4.00** Close

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CHOICE



Romesh Ranganathan

The Misadventures of Romesh Ranganathan (BBC2, 9pm)

New series. The comedian visits countries that are rarely visited by tourists to get a sense of the local culture and find out if they deserve their reputation. His first destination is Haiti, a country mostly famous for a dictatorship and a series of natural disasters. Accompanied by journalist Jeremy Dupain, he visits the iron market, attends voodoo ceremonies, and explores a cathedral destroyed by an earthquake.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. 9.00 The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00** Sunday Morning Live. **11.00** Sunday Politics. **12.15** Bargain Hunt. (R) **1.00** BBC News; Weather. **1.15** Points of View. **1.30** Songs of Praise. **2.05 Film:** The Silent Child. (2017) **2.30** Escape to the Continent. (R) **3.30** Wanted Down Under. (R) **4.25** Money for Nothing. (R) **5.10** A Question of Sport. (R) **5.40** Pointless Celebrities. (R)

6.30 BBC News.

6.50 BBC Regional News: Weather.

7.00 Countryfile. Matt Baker and Margherita Taylor present the show from Dorset, visiting a nature reserve famous for birds or prey and meeting a couple with a thriving sea fishing business. Plus, Adam Henson visits a farm that is helping people to rebuild their lives. Tom Heap reports on the challenges facing rural schools, and Anita Rani meets one of the contenders in the show's search for a young presenter.

8.00 Antiques Roadshow. Fiona Bruce visits Floors Castle in Roxburghshire, where items include a piece of Robert Burns memorabilia, a diamond pendant and a jade figurine that is not quite what it seems. A marble carving of a baby is the hit of the day for Marc Allum, while a fragile cup and saucer that have survived unscathed since the 18th century are another rare find.

9.00 Poldark. Ross, Sam and Dwight race to the rescue when blasting in the mines causes a disastrous flood. Ossie plans to have Morwenna committed to an asylum.

10.00 BBC News.

10.20 BBC Regional News: Weather.

10.30 MOTD: FIFA World Cup 2018 Highlights.

11.15 MOTD: FIFA World Cup 2018 Replay.

12.55 Weather for the Week Ahead. **1.00** BBC News.

In the event of live football being shown, the schedule may run as follows:

2.30 MOTD Live: FIFA World Cup 2018 (S) **5.10** News (S) **5.20** Local News; Weather (S) **5.30** Countryfile (S) **6.30** MOTD Live: FIFA World Cup 2018 (S) **9.10** Poldark (S) **10.10** News (S) **10.30** Local News; Weather (S) **10.40** Celebrities on the NHS Frontline (S, R) **11.40** MOTD: FIFA World Cup 2018 Replay (S) **1.25** BBC News (S)

BBC2

6.25 Glorious Gardens from Above. (R) **7.10** Gardeners' World. (R) **8.10** Countryfile. (R) **9.05** The Beechgrove Garden. **9.35** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. **11.05** Wimbledon 2017 Review. **12.00** Athletics: Diamond League Paris Highlights. **1.00** Live Athletics: British Championships. The second and final day from Birmingham. **5.00** Flog It! (R) **5.30 Film:** Into the Woods. (2014) A wicked witch agrees to lift a curse on a young couple if they will help restore her once beautiful looks. Musical fantasy starring Meryl Streep and Emily Blunt.

7.30 Mortimer & Whitehouse: Gone Fishing. Paul and Bob fish for barbel in Hay-on-Wye, and sample the great outdoors in spectacular fashion when Mortimer decides to strip in celebration of their catch. (R)

8.00 Russia with Simon Reeve. On the 100th anniversary of the Russian Revolution, adventurer Simon Reeve embarks on a journey across the world's biggest country. He begins in Russia's far east, and the snow-capped volcanoes of Kamchatka and Yakutia, where reindeer herders live in temperatures as low as minus 30. Outside the eastern port of Vladivostok, Simon investigates the growing influence of China on the area, then passes through the Boreal Forest, where he meets a conservationist dedicated to protecting the Amur tiger. His final destination is a giant hole in the ground in Siberia. (R)

9.00 The Misadventures of Romesh Ranganathan. New series. The comedian visits countries that are rarely visited by tourists to get a sense of the local culture and find out if they deserve their reputation. His first destination is Haiti, a country mostly famous for a dictatorship and a series of natural disasters.

10.00 Reporting Trump's First Year: The Fourth Estate. Shortly after FBI director James Comey is fired, The Times is onto a huge scoop with ongoing reverberations regarding Comey's memos about his meetings with President Trump.

11.00 Best of Glastonbury 2017. Jo Whitley and Mark Radcliffe introduce highlights from the festival at Worthy Farm in Somerset. (R)

1.10 Sign Zone: Question Time. (R) **2.10** Holby City. (R) **3.10** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Sooty. **6.10** Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. (R) **6.20** Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. (R) **6.35** Dino Dana. (R) **6.50** Mission Empoyable. (R) **6.55** The Oddbods Show. (R) **7.05** Ninjabo: Tournament of Elements. (R) **7.30** The Haunted Hathaways. (R) **7.55** Drop Dead Weird. **8.25** ITV News. **8.30** Zoe Ball on Sunday. **9.25** Who's Doing the Dishes? (R) **10.25** The Best of the Voice Worldwide. **11.20** Midsomer Murders. (R) **1.20** ITV News; Weather. **1.30** Tipping Point: Lucky Stars. (R) **2.30** Countrywise. (R) **3.00** Film: Despicable Me. (2010) **5.00** The Chase. (R)

6.00 ITV News; Weather.

6.15 ITV News London; Weather.

6.30 Paul O'Grady: For the Love of Dogs. Paul and the staff try an unconventional technique to calm down an over-excited mongrel.

7.00 Vera. A mother of two is found murdered in her back garden. Vera and Aiden investigate the case, and delve into the disturbing secrets and ongoing conflicts that lurk beneath the surface of the victim's seemingly peaceful suburban community. The case takes a more complicated turn when the dead woman's estranged family make an unexpected reappearance, and while several of her neighbours may have had cause to carry out a crime of passion, her relatives may have had compelling motives of their own to kill.

9.00 Holiday Horrors: Caught on Camera. Documentary series looking at what can go wrong on holiday, including a ski trip that became a fight for survival, and a horrific case of sunburn. (R)

10.00 ITV News; Weather.

10.15 FIFA World Cup 2018 Highlights. **11.15** The Big Fish Off. (R) **12.10** Jackpot247. **3.00** Motorsport UK. (R) **3.50** TV Nightscreen. **5.05** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R)

In the event of live football being shown, the schedule may run as follows:

2.30 FIFA World Cup 2018 (S) **5.15** Catchphrase (S, R) **6.00** News (S) **6.15** Local News (S) **6.30** FIFA World Cup 2018 (S) **9.15** Holiday Horrors: Caught on Camera (S, R) **10.00** News; Weather (S) **10.20** Killer Women with Piers Morgan (S, R) **11.15** The Big Fish Off (S, R) **12.10** Jackpot247 **3.00** Motorsport UK 2018 (S, R) **3.50** Nightscreen **5.05** The Jeremy Kyle Show (S, R)

CHANNEL 4

6.05 Motor Sport: Caterham. **6.30** Mobil 1: The Grid. **7.00** Motor Sport: British Rally Championship. **7.25** Frasier. (R) **7.55** Frasier. (R) **8.25** Frasier. (R) **8.55** Bake Off: The Professionals. (R) **10.00** Sunday Brunch. **1.00** Formula 1 Austrian Grand Prix Live Build-Up. A look ahead to the ninth round of the season. **1.40** Formula 1 Austrian Grand Prix Live. Coverage of the ninth round of the season (Start-time 2.10pm). **4.30** Formula 1 Austrian Grand Prix Live Reaction. A review of the ninth round of the season. **5.30** Bang on Budget.

6.30 Channel 4 News.

7.00 Escape to the Chateau. As Dick and Angel prepare for winter, they attend a food festival in Rouen, where they hope to find inspiration over what to do with their fresh fruit and vegetables. Angel adds the finishing touches to the floating geodesic dome in time for a family sleepover, while Dick gets to work fixing the crumbling stucco. Last in the series. (R)

8.00 Bake Off: The Professionals. Liam Charles and Tom Allen host the semi-final of the culinary contest, in which the four remaining teams must take on a secret recipe challenge, create a three-tiered cake, and rise to the unusual challenge of "live plating" to impress judges Cherish Finden and Benoit Blin and win a place in next week's final.

9.00 The Handmaid's Tale. An incident sends shockwaves through both Gilead and Little America. Serena Joy makes a dangerous choice in order to protect her family. Moira searches for someone from her past.

10.15 Night and Day. Spanish crime thriller in which a forensic pathologist is drawn into a dangerous web of torture and scandal surrounding an elusive killer after a man she slept with is killed. The full series is available online.

11.20 Film: Alien. (1979) A cargo spacecraft is invaded by a deadly creature that begins preying on the crew. Ridley Scott's sci-fi horror, with Sigourney Weaver, Tom Skerritt, Ian Holm and John Hurt.

1.40 The Last Leg. (R) **2.35** The Secret Life of the Zoo. (R) **3.30** Selling Houses with Amanda Lamb. (R) **4.25** Mobil 1: The Grid. (R) **4.55** Kirstie's Fill Your House for Free. (R) **5.05** Cheap Cheap Cheap. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake!: Little Princess. **6.10** Wissper. (R) **6.20** Poppy Cat. (R) **6.30** Milkshake! Monkey. (R) **6.35** The Secret Life of Puppies. (R) **6.40** Moly. (R) **6.45** Simon. (R) **6.55** Only the Little White Van. (R) **7.00** Peppa Pig. (R) **7.05** Paw Patrol. (R) **7.15** Thomas & Friends. (R) **7.35** Fireman Sam. (R) **7.50** Rusty Rivets. (R) **8.05** Paw Patrol. (R) **8.20** Nella the Princess Knight. (R) **8.40** Noddy: Toyland Detective. (R) **8.55** Floogals. (R) **9.10** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **9.25** Shimmer and Shine. (R) **9.40** Dinky Dragon. (R) **10.00** Peppa Pig. (R) **10.05** Peppa Pig. (R) **10.10** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. (R) **10.45** Pets Make You Laugh Out Loud. **11.10** Blind Date. (R) **12.05** Police Interceptors. (R) **12.55** Police Interceptors. (R) **1.50** Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away! (R) **2.50** Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away! (R) **3.50** Film: Bewitched. (2005) Romantic fantasy comedy, with Nicole Kidman and Will Ferrell. **4.50** Access. **4.55** Film: Bewitched. (2005) Concluded. **5.55** Film: Bride Wars. (2009) Comedy, starring Kate Hudson and Anne Hathaway.

7.25 5 News Weekend.

7.30 Dirty Dancing: Making Movie Magic. A celebration made for the 30th anniversary of the movie phenomenon starring Patrick Swayze and Jennifer Grey first captivated cinemagoers as bad boy choreographer Johnny Castle and would-be dancer Baby. This documentary celebrates the Dirty Dancing phenomenon, revisiting favourite scenes, discovering what happened on set – with contributions from cast members Kelly Bishop, Lonny Price and Jane Brucker – and hearing from the behind-the-scenes team, including choreographer Miranda Garrison and writer Eleanor Bergstein. (R)

9.00 Film: Dirty Dancing. (1987) A dance instructor at a 1960s resort teaches a naive teenager about self-expression as they perform in an important show. Romantic drama, with Patrick Swayze and Jennifer Grey. Edited for language and violence.

10.00 5 News Update.

10.05 Film: Dirty Dancing. (1987) Concluded.

11.05 Film: The Best of Me. (2014) Premiere. Romantic drama, with Michelle Monaghan.

1.15 Cricket on 5. **2.15** SuperCasino. **3.10** Wentworth Prison. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Four

7.00 The Search for Alfred the Great **8.00** The World's Biggest Flower Market **9.00** Olympic Dreams of Russian Gold – Over the Limit – Storyville **10.10** Eric Clapton at the BBC – The Rock 'n' Roll Years **10.40** The Art of Scandinavia **11.40** The Art That Made Mexico: Paradise, Power and Prayers **12.40** David Starkey's Music & Monarchy **1.40** The Search for Alfred the Great **2.40** Eric Clapton at the BBC – The Rock 'n' Roll Years **3.10** Close

ITV2

12.15 Take Me Out **1.30** Film: Twister (1996) **2.30** FYI Daily **2.35** Film: Twister (1996) **3.40** Film: Two Weeks Notice (2002) **4.40** FYI Daily **4.45** Film: Two Weeks Notice (2002) **5.45** Film: The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey (2012) **6.45** FYI Daily **6.50** Film: The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey (2012) **9.00** Love Island **10.00** Love Island: Afternoon **11.05** Family Guy **12.30** American Dad! **1.25** CelebAbility **2.10** Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records

ITV3

6.25 Victoria **9.00** Unforgotten **11.00** Wire in the Blood **11.00** Blue Murder **2.20** Liverpool **3.15** Road to Avonlea **5.00** Judge Judy **5.45** ITV3 Nightscreen

ITV4

11.15 Film: Bill & Ted's Excellent Adventure (1989) **12.15** FYI Daily **12.20** Film: Bill & Ted's Excellent Adventure (1989) **1.05** Film: Smokey and the Bandit (1977) **2.05** FYI Daily **2.10** Film: Smokey and the Bandit (1977) **3.00** Live Cycling. Coverage of the National Road Championships. **6.00** Film: The Alamo (1960) **7.05** FYI Daily **7.10** Film: The Alamo (1960) **9.15** Film: The Outlaw Josey Wales (1976) **10.15** FYI Daily **10.20** Film: The Outlaw Josey Wales (1976) **12.00** Film: Born to Raise Hell (2010) **1.00** FYI Daily **1.05** Film: Born to Raise Hell (2010) **2.05** Minder **2.50** ITV4 Nightscreen **3.00** Teleshopping

E4

1.00 Young Sheldon **1.30** The Big Bang Theory **5.55** The Crystal Maze: Celebrity Special **7.00** Film: Rise of the Planet of the Apes (2011) **9.00** Marvel's Agents of SHIELD **10.00** Gogglebox **11.05** Gogglebox Australia **12.10** The Big Bang Theory **1.05** Marvel's Agents of SHIELD **2.10** Gogglebox Australia

Film4

1.00 Stuart Little (1999) **2.40** The Return of the Pink Panther (1974) **4.55** Night at the Museum: Secret of the Tomb (2014) **6.50** The River Wild (1994) **9.00** Sicario (2015) **11.20** The Guard (2011) **1.10** Drug War (2012) **3.25** Close

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THURSDAY

5TH JULY 2018

10.30AM -

2.30PM

NHS CAREERS

EVENT & LEARNING

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NHS

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Clinical Commissioning Group

70

YEARS

OF THE NHS

1948 - 2018

FILM CHOICES

MONDAY
Lethal Weapon, Channel 5, 9pm
 An unstable Vietnam veteran cop teams up with a by-the-book Los Angeles police detective to investigate the apparent suicide of the daughter of a wealthy businessman, leading them to a violent and bloody confrontation with a ruthless drug cartel under the control of a retired US general. Action thriller, starring Mel Gibson, Danny Glover, Gary Busey, Mitchell Ryan and Tom Atkins. (1987)

TUESDAY
Wall of Silence, Channel 5, 3.15pm
 When a university student goes missing, her mother, a former police officer, goes in search for her. But what she encounters is a wall of academia bureaucracy and cover-ups that point to an abuse of authority stemming all the way to the government. Thriller, starring Ireland Baldwin, Victoria Pratt and Morgan Taylor Campbell. (2016)



Mad Max Beyond Thunderdome, Friday, ITV, 10.50pm

WEDNESDAY
What Maisie Knew, Channel 4, 12.55am
 A six-year-old girl finds herself a pawn in the ongoing divorce of her self-absorbed mother and father, who are both desperate to get custody of the child but blind to her own feelings. As both parents begin disastrous new relationships, the youngster is forced to develop an unexpected maturity to cope with her situation. Drama, starring Julianne Moore. (2012)

THURSDAY
Hidden Truth: Lies Will Surface, Channel 5, 3.15pm
 A young woman is forced to prove her brother's innocence after a teenage girl is found murdered in a California town. But she discovers a disturbing dark side to the community, and the hidden identity of the killer. Thriller, starring Shawn Christian. (2016)

FRIDAY
Mad Max Beyond Thunderdome, ITV, 10.50pm
 The warrior pitches up in the city of a cut-throat desert community in search of his stolen vehicle and ends up making a deal with a local dictator to get rid of her rival for power. However, when the bargain turns sour, he is cast out into the wilderness. Sci-fi adventure sequel, starring Mel Gibson. (1985)

The NHS Choir look to find their singing voice

There have been lots of programmes to mark the 70th anniversary of the NHS, and many of them have made a point of celebrating the service's unsung heroes.

But now those unsung heroes get a chance to belt out a tune for all they are worth as part of The NHS Big Singalong Live.

That's because the NHS Choir is being joined by popstars and celebrities in a bid to smash the world record for the biggest live singalong ever to be broadcast.

The song they will be performing is The Beatles' classic With a Little Help from My Friends (presumably more people knew the words to that than to the Fab Four's more medically minded Doctor Robert).

But breaking a record doesn't just take dedication, it also requires organisation, and in this programme presenters Sara Cox and Ashley Banjo follow the build-up to the big event.

It's a cause that's clearly close to both their hearts. Sara said: "It is so

exciting to be part of this challenge to break a world record and celebrate the amazing work of the NHS. We'll be travelling the length and breadth of the UK recruiting people to join in to make sure we smash that record and show everyone working in our NHS how much we appreciate them."

Ashley added: "We want to recognise and celebrate the hardworking and dedicated staff who keep the NHS going every day and highlight the human kindness at the heart of the incredible care and treatment they make available to every single one of us."

The pair will be charting the progress of choirmasters doctor Katie Rogerson and NHS worker Joe Blunden as they scour the health service for potential warblers, while also recruiting a few famous performers as well.

In the process, we'll meet some extraordinary patients and staff, and find out why some of the celebrity recruits have very personal reasons for wanting to support the NHS.

Once the singers are assembled, the presenters will be joining the Lewisham and Greenwich NHS Choir and their famous friends at the iconic Abbey Road studios, where the Beatles recorded the original track.

And more choirs and staff will be joining in the live broadcast from hospitals and other locations across the UK, with one group performing on the cobbles of Coronation Street.

Hopefully, it will be a record-breaking effort, but Joe Blunden's ambitions don't quite stop there. Cameras will capture the excitement when a version of the song is also be recorded at Abbey Road, ready to be released as a charity single.

Joe says: "We are determined to both smash that live singalong record and get to number one!"

And seeing as the Lewisham and Greenwich NHS Choir previously held Justin Bieber at bay to claim the 2015 Christmas number one with A Bridge Over You, maybe, with a little help from the health service's many friends, his dream will come true.



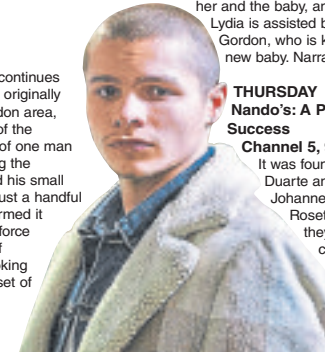
The NHS Big Singalong Live, Wednesday, ITV, 9pm

BEST OF THE REST

have been set up by Barsha Chowdhrey, the wife of the local police chief. Inspector Chowdhrey is known for his hatred of corruption in the region and at a gala held for the Brigadier, Bones spots a suspect package placed underneath his chair, prompting him to leap into action

WEDNESDAY
Street Food Servants BBC1, 7.30pm
 The fascinating Our Lives strand continues with this documentary, which was originally broadcast last months in the London area, but can now be seen by the rest of the country. Anita Rani tells the story of one man who has devoted his life to helping the homeless. Randeep Singh started his small charity in Southall, London, with just a handful of volunteers but has now transformed it into a sophisticated national task force feeding and clothing thousands of people every week. He is now looking to expand, but that brings a new set of challenges.

The Highland Midwife Channel 5, 8pm
 Community midwife Hayley



Romper Stomper, Friday, BBC2, 11.05pm

undertakes a journey from the heart of the Highlands to the city hospital, to help with the delivery of mum Rachel's baby. Meanwhile, in Campbelltown on the west coast, first-time mother Morven is determined to have a local birth and midwife Helen must decide on the safest option for her and the baby, and in Aberdeen, midwife Lydia is assisted by hands-on dad Gordon, who is keen to help deliver his new baby. Narrated by Pam Ferris.

THURSDAY
Nando's: A PERi PERi Big Success Channel 5, 9pm
 It was founded by Fernando Duarte and Robert Brozin in the Johannesburg suburb Rosettenville in 1987 when they visited a restaurant called Chickenland, and now Nando's has over 1,000 restaurants across the globe, with 400 in the UK alone. So what is the secret of its success? This

documentary tells the story of the food chain from the company's humble beginnings - it almost sank without trace after opening its first UK takeaway in 1992 in Ealing - to the multi-million-pound brand it is today. The programme also looks at what ingredients go into its famous Mozambican-style peri-peri sauce and how social media exposure and celebrity endorsements (Prince William is apparently a fan) have added to its success.

FRIDAY
Romper Stomper BBC2, 11.05pm
 The 1992 Australian film Romper Stomper, which followed a Neo Nazi group in Melbourne, may have been controversial, but it did help to mark Russell Crowe out as a rising star - it was the movie that persuaded director Curtis Hanson to cast him in LA Confidential. This belated TV sequel may also prove to be a star-making vehicle for its cast, including Toby Wallace as Kane. In this third episode, his mother Gabe (Jacqueline McKenzie, reprising her role from the movie) is heartbroken to discover he's joined a far-right group. Meanwhile, his stepsister Cindi (Markella Kavenagh) has become involved with the anti-fascist movement. So that's setting the scene or a lot of family conflict which threatens to explode in the second half of this double bill.

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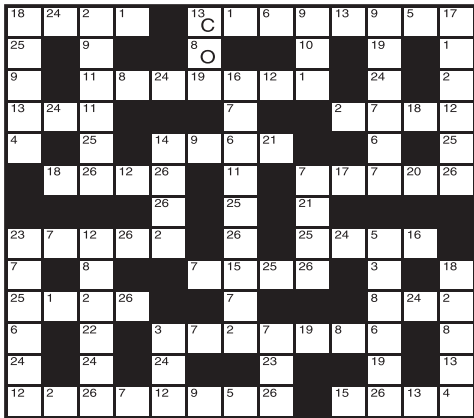
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BRAIN GYM

No.486

Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Z	C	X	K	G	E	D	R	H	F	S	J	Y
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
N	T	U	A	W	B	L	I	V	Q	O	M	P

Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

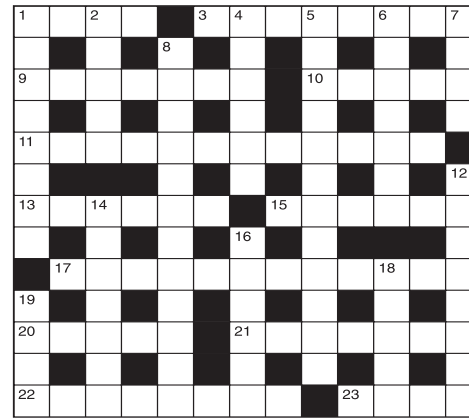
Cryptic Clues:

Across

1. Neckwear, we hear, for a dandy (4)
3. Agreements for cosmetic containers (8)
9. A classical naval battle - for Italian sausages! (7)
10. A long time coming back to the ring (5)
11. A contest among comedians? (6,2,4)
13. Yet all has been rearranged recently (6)
15. Does artistic work and puts the first of the colours in different sheet (6)
17. One with rank on board lacking magnanimity? (5,7)
20. A certain quantity of fuel I treasured (5)
21. A bit of upper turbulence to cause agitation (7)
22. A request certain to give satisfaction (8)
23. Boss required to equine establishment (4)

Down

1. Headquarters Dance in which pitchers are used (8)
2. Apportion a levy that's been raised (5)
4. Son who strangely is being exhibited (2,6)
5. Risk getting your fingers burnt (4,4,4)
6. Sounds like one tricks a wild animal (7)
7. See 14 Down.
8. Brief communications in lower case (5,7)
12. Attributed to the writer in the present era (8)
- 14 & 7Dn. It may be occupied by the stall-holder (7,4)
16. Small change for the policeman (6)
18. It's a place for trying recreation area (5)
19. It's a mistake to depart unobtrusively (4)



Quick Clues:

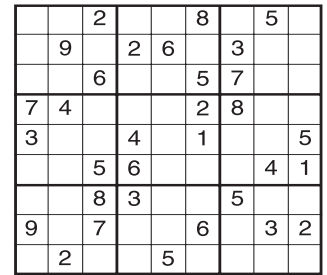
Across

1. Irritation (4)
3. Scrawl (8)
9. Imagine (7)
10. Thin silk fabric (5)
11. Parsimony (6-6)
13. Stagger back (6)
15. Picture-house (6)
17. Unavailing (12)
20. Edible bulb (5)
21. Feeling (7)
22. Urgent (8)
23. At one time (4)

Down

1. Unsafe (8)
2. Coppice (5)
4. Eerie (6)
5. Pause (7)
6. Poise (7)
7. A paradise (4)
8. Components (12)
12. Mode of speech (8)
14. Entrust (7)
16. Shelter (6)
18. Sham (5)
19. Ceremony (4)

Sudoku



Fill in the grid above so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

8	6	3	2	1	4	7	9	5
1	2	4	5	9	7	6	3	8
9	7	5	6	8	3	4	2	1
5	3	1	9	7	6	8	4	2
6	8	7	3	4	2	1	5	9
2	4	9	1	5	8	3	6	7
4	5	8	7	3	9	2	1	6
7	1	2	4	6	5	9	8	3
3	9	6	8	2	1	5	7	4

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS:
 CRYPTIC - Across: 6 Combine; 7 Cover; 9 Scree; 10 Cast out; 12 Stand at ease; 14 Double fault; 18 Writers; 19 Gaffe; 21 Takes; 22 Amnesia. Down: 1 Pouch; 2 Object; 3 End; 4 Bottle; 5 Request; 8 Caravan; 11 Unheard; 13 Poor law; 15 Butter; 16 Leader; 17 Of gin; 20 Imp.
 QUICK - Across: 6 Jocular; 7 Charm; 9 Broad; 10 Quieten; 12 Deportation; 14 Permissible; 18 Hosiery; 19 Impel; 21 Bully; 22 Fatigue. Down: 1 Board; 2 Humane; 3 Gag; 4 Threat; 5 Freedom; 8 Curtail; 11 Consort; 13 Decorum; 15 Mainly; 16 Limpid; 17 Venue; 20 Pay.

Quiz

1. Which country was rocked by the Recruit scandal?
2. Which soccer hero received a knighthood in the 1994 Queen's Birthday Honours list?
3. What does an entomologist study?
4. What is the capital of New Mexico?
5. In which sport is play started by a 'bully'?
6. What is the US's oldest educational institution?
7. Which country's largest lake is Lake Garda?
8. What do we call a single dot on a computer screen?
9. Which genus of tree includes the peach, the apricot and the cherry?
10. Of which war was the Battle of Crecy the first important battle?

Last week's solutions:

Quiz: 1 Just So Stories; 2 Singapore; 3 Sue Barker; 4 Taffeta; 5 Catherine Parr; 6 Odin; 7 Dutch; 8 New Zealand; 9 A wading bird; 10 Justice of the Peace.
 Niner: HARMONICS

Niner

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

45689 gives seafood,
 946817 gives more seafood,
 43265 gives something found in the sea.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

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Enjoy a Hot Summer Night with the smash-hit new musical Bat Out of Hell.

Jim Steinman and Meat Loaf's greatest hits bring rock'n'roll romance alive on stage in this tale of triumphant love as the forever young leader of rebellious gang 'The Lost' falls for the beautiful daughter of a tyrannical ruler.

Winner of Best Musical at the Evening Standard Theatre Awards 2017, **Jim Steinman's Bat Out of Hell The Musical** features chart-topping hits including *I'd Do Anything For Love (But I Won't Do That)*, *Dead Ringer For Love* and *Paradise By the Dashboard Light*.

Bat out of Hell is a fun, vibrant, boundary pushing take on the traditional love story that can be enjoyed by all.

With audiences 'taking to their feet for full-blown standing ovations' (*The Mirror*) every performance at London's Dominion Theatre, what better way to spend a hot summer night than with this Omega break that includes your theatre ticket plus return coach travel, hotel accommodation with breakfast and free time in London!

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 EVENING STANDARD MUSIC AWARDS 2017

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from Dudley, Halesowen & Stourbridge

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- ✓ Overnight stay at a 3 or 4-star hotel in the Heathrow area with dinner & full English breakfast
- ✓ Bat Out Of Hell theatre ticket - Stalls/Circle (matinee performance)
- ✓ Free time in London

2 Days

only

£139

Omega Holidays cannot be held responsible for the non-appearance of a particular actor/actress: no refunds will be given in this event. Whilst we always try to ensure that parties are seated together, very occasionally, it may be necessary for parties to be split. Couples are always seated together. Tours offered subject to availability. Errors and omissions excepted. Prices shown are per person, based on two people sharing a dbl/twin room. Single supplements apply.

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PROPERTY

YOUR WEEKLY
GUIDE TO HOME
BUYING AND
LETTING

Three-bedroomed home would make an ideal investment

An ideal investment opportunity, having a long-term tenant in-situ, currently achieving £575 per calendar month, 3 New Crown Street, Dudley, is for sale through Trinity Property at £130,000 with no chain.

Being built to an attractive, modern design, it lies in a pleasant cul-de-sac location.

Its accommodation briefly comprises an entrance hallway, a downstairs WC, a lounge, a kitchen/diner, three bedrooms (two doubles and a single), and a family bathroom.

This charming property also has a small front garden and rear garden with a patio to the rear. The garage has an up and over door.

The property is within walking distance of Dudley Town Centre. It has a driveway to the front and further off-road parking nearby. The single garage lies to the side.

In more detail the bathroom/WC has a mixer shower over the bath. The rear garden is of a good size. There is a short path to the front door and some mature shrubbery. The lounge is carpeted and has a feature fireplace, fitted with a modern grey steel fireplace with a wooden surround.

The kitchen has a good-sized dining space with patio doors to the rear garden. This space has attractive floor tiling which is repeated to the kitchen area. This has units fitted with modern light wooden-style doors, complemented by black working surfaces. The kitchen area also has splash-back tiling. The bathroom has a modern white suite, a shower over the bath and a glazed shower screen.

The garden has a good sized patio area, ideal for outside entertaining and shrubbery bordering the lawn.

Trinity Property aims to bring a fresh, friendly and honest approach to selling, buying and letting property within the Dudley and Stourbridge area.

DUDLEY £130,000

TO VIEW THIS PROPERTY

AGENT: Trinity Property

TEL: 01384 213395

EMAIL: dudley@trinityproperty.net



KEY FEATURES

Investment opportunity
Semi-detached home
Three bedrooms (two double)
Lounge/dining/kitchen
Cul-de-sac location



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If you are thinking of selling, look no further than the estate agents in these pages for the best local advice available.



GORNAL WOOD, Himley Road

REMARKABLY SPACIOUS, gas centrally heated, double glazed family residence with exceptionally flexible accommodation comprising: hall, living room (presently utilised as fourth bedroom), adjacent shower room, dining room, rear hallway, tremendous lounge, breakfast kitchen. Three double bedrooms, bathroom. Cellar, level sheltered rear garden with brick 19 ft x 9 ft garage. EPC: E SEDGLEY



DUDLEY, Vauxhall Gardens

NO CHAIN - A SPACIOUS significantly extended gas centrally heated UPVC double glazed detached offering potential with entrance vestibule, reception hall, fitted cloak room, lounge with bay, dining room, breakfast room, kitchen, lobby, FOUR BEDROOMS, bathroom (with white suite), garage, ample garden. EPC: D SEDGLEY



SEDGLEY, Warren Drive, Northway

A superbly presented DETACHED property located on the popular Northway development in Sedgley. Comprising of gas central heating and double glazing this attractive family home also boasts hall, through lounge-diner, fitted-kitchen, FOUR BEDROOMS, family shower room, garage, car port, enclosed rear garden with drive to front. VIEWING ESSENTIAL. EPC: D SEDGLEY.

New price

WS £259,000,NOW £249,000

Offers in the region of £245,000

Offers in the region of £229,950



KINGSWINFORD, Mount Pleasant

Enjoying fantastic elevated views, this INCREDIBLY DECEPTIVE, DETACHED FAMILY HOME with a LARGE BLOCK PAVED DRIVEWAY, GARAGE and a LARGE SUNNY REAR GARDEN offers an INCREDIBLY SPACIOUS and IMMACULATELY PRESENTED layout including FOUR GENEROUS BEDROOMS EPC E

£339,950



SEDGLEY, Gospel End Street

An imposing, SIGNIFICANTLY EXTENDED, spacious, family home with panoramic Distant Views within walking distance of Sedgley's Bull Ring built in 1960 to a first quality specification comprising: reception hall, lounge with bay, dining room, enlarged/refitted kitchen, pantry, utility room, fitted cloakroom, FOUR GENEROUS BEDROOMS (one with en suite), upgraded bathroom. Garage, neat gardens. EPC: D SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £299,950



LOWER GORNAL, Orchard Grove

REMARKABLY SPACIOUS, and within walking distance of the Village; a gas centrally heated, double glazed detached bungalow with flexible accommodation providing: 28 ft hall, cloakroom, lounge, kitchen leading into a sitting room (formerly 3rd bedroom), enlarged bathroom/wet room. Large GARAGE (with workshop addition), south facing rear garden with gated side vehicular access. EPC: C SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £200,000



Nr.SEDGLEY, Gospel End Road, Gospel End Village

ENVIABLY SITUATED backing on to open fields! Gas centrally heated, majority uPVC double glazed semi detached. Accommodation includes: reception hall, through living/dining room, upgraded kitchen. Three bedrooms, bathroom. Garage, sheltered /secluded rear garden. EPC:D SEDGLEY

PRICE: £194,950



WOODSETTON, Chartwell Drive

A tastefully presented semi-detached property situated in the much sought after area of Woodsetton in Dudley. As well as having gas central heating and double glazing this good-sized family home also consists of entrance porch, hall, kitchen, lounge-diner, THREE BEDROOMS, family bathroom, attractive enclosed rear garden with garage and driveway to front. NO UPWARD CHAIN - Mine search available - EPC Rating TBC. SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £159,950



LOWER GORNAL, Haslingden Crescent

Stylish, gas centrally heated, double glazed 'starter home' WITH GARAGE upon highly regarded, development comprising: entrance hallway, cloakroom, well equipped kitchen with a fine range of units & various integrated appliances. Living/dining room (with double French doors out to garden). Two double bedrooms (principal bedroom with full width range of fitted units), part tiled bathroom. Sheltered rear garden. GARAGE & driveway. EPC: C - SEDGLEY

WAS £155,000...NOW £152,950



SEDGLEY, Lime Road

COMPREHENSIVELY MODERNISED/REFURBISHED in recent months, carpeted & re-decorated throughout etc.; a 'ready to move into' starter home in popular district comprising: entrance porch, reception hall, store, lounge with bay, stunning through 'hub of the house' dining kitchen, utility section, lobbies, store & w.c. THREE BEDROOMS, reappointed bathroom. gardens. EPC: D SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £149,500



COSELEY, Upper Ettingshall Road

NO UPWARD CHAIN. Located in a popular area a wonderfully presented, stylish semi-detached property ideally suited to the first time buyer. With gas central heating and double glazing, this TWO BEDROOM home also benefits from hall, living room, attractive kitchen-diner, guest W/C / Utility room, stunning bathroom, enclosed rear garden with driveway for multiple vehicles to front. EPC: TBA SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £144,950



UPPER GORNAL, Jews Lane

Located in the popular Upper Gornal area of Dudley, a wonderfully presented modern intermediate first time buyer opportunity. Comprising of gas central heating and double glazing this TWO BEDROOM starter home also benefits from: entrance hall, guest W/C, Living room, kitchen-diner, fitted bathroom and private enclosed rear garden. EPC: C SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £134,950



LOWER GORNAL, Deepdale Lane

An extremely well presented traditional terraced property which retains many period features and is situated in the much sought after Lower Gornal area of Dudley. Having gas central heating and double glazing this deceptively spacious home also consists of: living room, kitchen-diner, sitting room/bedroom, utility area/ rear hall, guest W/C, TWO BEDROOMS, family bathroom, cellar, rear garden and yard to front. VIEWING ESSENTIAL. EPC Rating E SEDGLEY.

Offers in the region of £129,950



DUDLEY, Acacia Close

An extremely well presented modern semi-detached property with pleasant outlook to rear. Along with gas central heating and double glazing, this fantastic starter home' also boasts, hall, fitted-kitchen, lounge-diner, TWO BEDROOMS, bathroom, attractive enclosed rear garden and drive with garden to front. Offered with NO UPWARD CHAIN. EPC: D SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £124,950



SEDGLEY, Kings Road

Modernised & improved, gas centrally heated, double glazed traditional terraced that has been 'transformed' in recent years situated within level walking distance of the Bull Ring comprising: living room, store, dining room, refitted kitchen with a fine range of units, cloakroom. Two generous double bedrooms, bathroom with white suite. Good size garden. EPC D SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £120,000



SEDGLEY, Greenway Gardens

NO UPWARD CHAIN - A UPVC single glazed semi detached for improvement and offering significant potential. Presently comprising entrance hallway, through living room, kitchen, shower room, lobby, separate toilet, store. To the first floor are three generous bedrooms (possibilities of sub-division?), over grown garden. EPC Rating TBC. SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £110,000



WORDSLEY, Clock Tower View

This MOST IMPRESSIVE ONE BEDROOM TOP FLOOR APARTMENT enjoys a superb position within Porters Lodge, forming one of the original heritage buildings, offering a GENEROUS and BEAUTIFULLY APPOINTED layout. Surrounded by maintained gardens including an RESIDENT/ VISITOR PARKING SPACE. EPC D

New price

£109,950



COSELEY, Yew Tree Lane

30% SHARE FOR SALE. Rare opportunity to purchase a GAS CENTRALLY HEATED & double glazed GROUND FLOOR flat in small development (just 4 dwellings) within walking distance of Coseley RAILWAY STATION comprising:19 ft living/dining room with well equipped kitchen section incorporating oven, hob & filter, store, inner hallway, two bedrooms (both with wardrobes), bathroom with a white suite. Parking, extensive lawned grounds. EPC: C. SEDGLEY

O/A £30,000 for 30% share



Three-bed house on a corner plot has no chain

DUDLEY
£150,000

This three-bedroomed semi-detached house in Douglas Road, Dudley, lies on a corner plot and has a large garden to the rear.

It is for sale through Trinity Property at £150,000 with no chain.

Its accommodation briefly comprises an entrance hallway, a lounge, kitchen, rear reception room, a wet room/WC, house bathroom and three bedrooms, which include two doubles and a single.

Outside the large garden has a patio area and is partially lawned.

Of the three bedrooms, one and two have built-in wardrobes.

Contact Trinity Property on 01384 213395.



Four-bedroom modern home is detached and well presented

UPPER GORNAL
£234,950 <<<

Back on the property market, this modern detached house with well-maintained and improved four-bedroom accommodation in Jews Lane, Upper Gornal, Dudley, is for sale through Wakeman Estate Agents at £234,950.

Its accommodation briefly comprises an entrance hall, a cloakroom/WC, a lounge, a dining room, a kitchen, store, a utility area, bedroom one with an en-suite shower room, three further bedrooms, a bathroom, gardens, parking and a garage.

The home lies in a pleasant and convenient location midway between Dudley and Sedgley and is convenient for Gornal village and a wide range of amenities.

It has deceptively spacious and well-maintained accommodation.

Contact 01384 459999.



SDL AUCTIONS

BIGWOOD

For sale by auction on Wednesday 18th July at Aston Villa Football Ground. Commencing at 10.30am

55 Wood Street, Kidderminster



A vacant freehold end terraced property

Guide Price* : in excess of £35,000 (plus fees)

92 Baxter Avenue, Kidderminster



A three bedroomed vacant freehold detached property.

A detached property standing back from the road behind a driveway and foregarden.

Guide Price* : in excess of £85,000 (plus fees)

74 Park Street, Lye, Stourbridge



A two bedroomed vacant freehold semi-detached property.

A semi-detached property standing flush to the pavement.

Guide Price* : in excess of £40,000 (plus fees)

11 Lake Street, Lower Gornal



A three storey end terraced mixed use property

Guide Price* : in excess of £60,000 (plus fees)

7 The Parade, Wall Heath, Kingswinford



A vacant freehold three bedroomed semi-detached property.

A semi detached property, standing back from the road behind a driveway and foregarden.

Guide Price* : in excess of £95,000 (plus fees)

16 Oak Close, Tipton



A purpose built first floor flat. Current gross income: £6,180 pa

Guide Price* : In excess of £45,000 (plus fees)

66 Silverthorne Avenue, Tipton



A vacant freehold two bedroomed semi-detached property

Guide Price* : £19,000-£24,000 (plus fees)

30 Bankfield Road, Tipton



A vacant freehold three bedroomed semi-detached property.

A semi-detached property, standing back from the road behind a driveway and foregarden.

Guide Price* : in excess of £75,000 (plus fees)

0121 233 5046

155 Great Charles Street, Birmingham, B3 3LP

www.sdlauctions.co.uk

* Each property is subject to a Reserve Price which would ordinarily be within + or - 10% of the quoted Guide Price. Therefore the property may not be + able to be purchased at the quoted Guide Price. Both Guide and Reserve Prices can be subject to change up to and including the day of the auction. For a full explanation go to www.sdlauctions.co.uk/glossary. All Guide Prices are subject to additional non-optional fees, including the buyers administration fee.



Three-bedroom detached with garage and extra parking

WOODSETTON
£177,500

<<<

With well-presented accommodation, this three-bedroom detached house in Sedgley Road, Woodsetton, Dudley, is set well back from the road.

Having a garage and additional parking at the rear of the property, it is for sale through Wakeman Estate Agents at £177,500.

It has an entrance hall, a lounge, a dining room, a kitchen, three bedrooms, garage, parking and gardens. This home is situated in a well established and popular residential area, close to a wide range of amenities and within easy reach of Sedgley and Dudley together with access to surrounding centres. It has double glazing and gas central heating and the garage is set at the rear. In more detail the dining room has a French window to the rear garden.

Contact Wakeman Estate Agents on 01384 459999.



Spacious property in a superb location

SEDGLEY
£450,000

In a stunning location and incredibly spacious, this four-bedroomed property in Catholic Lane, Sedgley, is for sale through Taylors Estate Agents at £450,000.

It is situated in Sedgley's premier neighbourhood abutting onto and overlooking paddocks, with magnificent distant views.

With gas central heating and double glazing, its accommodation briefly comprises a reception hall, a magnificent 25' living room (with two sets of double doors out to the garden), an upgraded 23'9" dining kitchen with a fine range of units, a utility room and a fitted cloakroom/WC.

Contact Taylors Estate Agents on 01902 880888.



Wakeman

team
teamprop.co.uk



27 DUDLEY ROAD, SEDGLEY O/A £649,950

- Exceptional individual detached family home. Set within well tended walled gardens
- Spacious five bedroom accommodation over three floors
- Impressive conservatory, three reception rooms, high quality fittings throughout
- Extensive breakfast kitchen, utility room and playroom
- EPC RATING C



'WOODBINE COTTAGE', 73 STOURBRIDGE ROAD, HAGLEY £325,000

- Attractive double fronted end of terrace cottage
- Bedroom one with en-suite shower room, two further bedrooms
- Well maintained & improved double glazed accommodation
- Car parking to side of property with easily maintained rear garden
- EPC RATING D



30 JEWS LANE, UPPER GORNAL £245,000

- Modern extended detached house with three bedrooms
- Well maintained and improved accommodation
- Extended bedroom one with lovely dressing area
- Distant views at the rear with attractive rear garden
- EPC RATING TBC



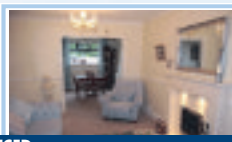
7 BOUNDARY CRESCENT £187,500

- Extended semi detached house
- Three bedrooms plus attic room
- Sun room, bar, utility area and sauna room
- Rear garden with decking on two levels
- EPC RATING D



28 JEWS LANE, UPPER GORNAL £234,950

- Modern four bedroom detached house
- Well maintained & attractively presented
- Two reception rooms, utility area & re-fitted kitchen
- Ample off road parking & level easily maintained rear garden
- EPC RATING D



56 SCOTTS GREEN CLOSE, DUDLEY O/A £185,000

- Individually designed detached house
- Sited in pleasant cul-de-sac position
- Well proportioned three bedroom accommodation
- Extended kitchen, through lounge & dining area
- EPC RATING D



141 SEDGLEY ROAD, WOODSETTON £177,500

- Modern three bedroom detached house
- Offers well presented accommodation
- Garage situated at the rear with additional parking
- Situated in a well established and popular residential area
- EPC RATING D



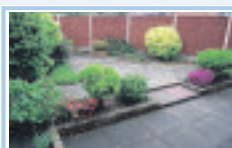
8 HALL GROVE £169,500

- Detached house
- Three bedrooms
- In need of some updating works
- Pleasant cul de sac location
- EPC RATING E



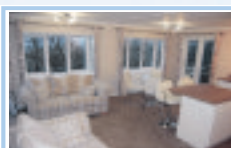
15 BEECHFIELD GROVE, COELEY O/A £170,000

- Traditional style semi detached house
- Well proportioned three bedroom accommodation
- Occupying a wide corner plot on the popular Bramford housing estate
- Some degree of cosmetic updating needed
- EPC RATING D



37 DALESWOOD PARK, ROMSLEY £129,950

- New park home enviably positioned on a hard landscaped plot with ample patio areas
- Overlooking adjoining woodland within a semi rural locality
- Contemporary accommodation with open plan living room, dining/kitchen area
- Two bedrooms with built in wardrobes, shower room with large walk in shower
- Daleswood Park is a small park home site, designated for owner occupiers only



9A RUSSELLS HALL ROAD DUDLEY £105,000

- Semi detached house
- Two bedrooms
- L'Shaped lounge & kitchen
- In need of improvement & updating works
- Ideal opportunity for a first time purchaser or investor
- EPC RATING E



93 WHITEGATES ROAD £74,950

- Semi detached house
- Three bedrooms
- Shared hall, stairs & landing
- Communal grounds
- EPC RATING C

202 Wolverhampton Street, Dudley
01384 459999

wakeman-online.com



Class-winner

Peugeot 5008 SUV scoops tow award

The all-new Peugeot 5008 SUV 2.0 BlueHdi EAT8 S&S GT was selected as number one in the 1550-1699kg category by expert judges from Practical Caravan, What Car?, and Camping & Caravanning.

The seven-seat SUV was praised for its comfort, stability, pulling power – and bold styling – by the panel who tested 44 cars across four key areas: towing, everyday driving, practicality and ownership.

Each car was tested by towing a caravan ballasted to 85% of the car's kerb-weight, or the legal towing limit if that figure is lower. The 5008 SUV performed well in tests including a hill start on a one-in-six slope, an emergency lane change and towing at up to 70mph using GPS technology to judge stability.

Ride comfort, handling prowess, refinement and passenger space were also assessed by expert road testers while seasoned caravanners assessed the boot space and the fitment of towing-friendly features such as a trailer stability system and rear-view camera.

Safety, reliability, running costs and value for money were also considered as part of the Tow Car Awards with the new Peugeot 5008 SUV winning the 1550-1699kg category.

David Motton, tow car editor, Practical Caravan, said: "All our judges were hugely impressed with the all-new Peugeot 5008 SUV. It was exemplary in our lane-change test and stable at speed, too.

"The all-new 5008 SUV rides comfortably, both with and without a caravan hitched up, and the engine is refined and smooth. Inside, the PEUGEOT is a very practical seven-seater – ideal for family touring holidays. What's more, the 5008 SUV is refreshingly bold and stylish. That may not have clinched the Peugeot's class win, but it certainly didn't hurt!"

Sustainable push by Volvo for its vehicles



Volvo committed to minimising environment footprint

Volvo is aiming to ensure that from 2025, 25 per cent of the plastics used in its new cars will be made from recycled materials.

The Swedish car maker is also asking industry suppliers to ensure the next generation of automotive components is made as sustainably as possible, making use of recycled plastics wherever they can.

To demonstrate the company's plans, Volvo unveiled a unique version of its XC60 SUV built using a variety of plastic components made from recycled materials.

The main tunnel is created from renewable fibres, while the floor carpets have been made from fibres created by combining recycled cotton mixes and plastic bottles. Used car seats from old Volvo vehicles were used to create the sound-deadening material for underneath the bonnet.

Håkan Samuelsson, president and CEO of Volvo Cars, said: "Volvo Cars is committed to minimising its global environmental footprint. Environmental care is one of Volvo's core values and we will continue to find new ways to bring this into our business. This car and our recycled plastics ambition are further examples of that commitment."

It follows on from an announcement last month, in which the car maker said it would be eradicating the use of single-use plastics across all of its premises and events by the end of 2019. In addition, Volvo has committed to a plan of electrifying all new Volvo cars launched by the end of 2019, with the aim being to ensure that fully-electric cars make up 50 per cent of the manufacturer's car range by 2025.

Mazda RX-7: celebrating an icon for its 40 birthday

By James Parker

The year was 1978, UK inflation hit a six-year low, the Bee Gees dominated the charts, while flared trousers and bouffant hair was the height of fashion. It was also the year that Mazda unveiled the RX-7, a car that played a vital role in establishing Mazda's reputation for building celebrated driver's cars.

In the 1970s car makers the world over found themselves faced with the grim reality of a global fuel crisis. Soaring petrol prices meant few drivers wanted to own big, gas-guzzling V8 sports cars, so a new approach was needed. Responding to the challenging environment, Mazda's brightest brains set about creating a new kind of sports car – one that would be smaller, lighter, more efficient and – most important of all – fun to drive.

So in the home market of Japan, Mazda revealed the ground-breaking RX-7. Its compact yet powerful rotary engine allowed the power unit to be mounted lower and further back resulting in a car that set new standards in road holding. The formula was a hit with customers and critics alike. Car and Driver magazine, one of America's most influential car magazines, placed the Mazda RX-7 on its annual Ten Best list five times.

The original RX-7 'FB' proved a huge success. More than 470,000 driving enthusiasts bought one, before the second generation 'FC' model was introduced with turbo power in 1985. The third generation 'FD' followed in 1992 until production of the iconic RX-7 ended in 2002.

In addition, the RX-7's success in competition around the globe further cemented its position as a one of the world's best sports cars. The RX-7 took overall victory in the 1981 Spa 24 hours, competed at Le Mans, took part in the awe-inspiring world of Group B rallying and claimed the 1980 and 1981 BTCC titles. In the USA, the RX-7 took an unmatched 100 wins in 12 years of IMSA competition and won the GTU class at the 1979 Daytona 24 hours.

Win Percy, the British racing driver who took both the RX-7s BTCC championships, was blown away by the speed of the Mazda RX-7: "I won the title in 1980 and team owner Tom Wilkinshaw said: 'Let's go for it and try to win races outright next year.' We duly did, beating the Rovers and Capris and I took the title again. It was a very capable little car – you really could call it a giant killer."

And Pierre Dieudonné who drove a Mazda RX-7 to victory in the 1981 24 Hours of Spa said: "That win was very important to Mazda. It was the first time a Japanese car manufacturer had won that race - the RX-7 didn't have the image of something like a Porsche. But winning at Spa gave it the prestige."

To mark the 40th anniversary of the Mazda RX-7, Mazda brought together all three generations of the sports car in a film that documents the evolution of the most successful model to be powered by a rotary engine: view at youtu.be/jaOtLK4hDF8



Classic Mazda RX-7s star in a special birthday celebration



One of the last RX-7s produced in 2002 at the end of its production

Be alert to early signs of road rage

Road safety and breakdown cover specialist GEM Motoring Assist is encouraging drivers to protect themselves by being alert to early signs of road rage.

The warning follows release of disturbing dashcam video appearing to show an angry driver in the West Midlands shunting a fellow motorist and causing a high-speed crash.

GEM road safety officer Neil Worth commented: "Most of us will have some experience of being on the receiving end of someone else's aggression.

"Thankfully, violent and unprovoked attacks are very rare, but it pays to be observant and if possible to recognise any signs of trouble at their earliest stages."

GEM has identified a few steps (taken from its 'Courtesy on the Road' leaflet) that will hopefully reduce the risk for a driver of being the target of someone else's aggression:

1 Keep calm and show restraint. Every journey brings the risk of frustration and conflict. Make a pledge to be patient. Avoid using your horn or making gestures in anger.

2 Avoid competition and resist the desire to 'get even'. If the standard of someone else's driving disappoints you, don't attempt to educate or rebuke them.

3 Don't push into traffic queues. If you wait and clearly signal, you won't wait long before another drive lets you in. But they don't like being forced into giving way.

4 Say thank you, say sorry, Courtesy encourages co-operation on the road. If you make a mistake (and we all do!) or perhaps cut things a bit fine, then a gesture of apology avoids confrontation and helps defuse anger.

5 Move away from trouble. If you feel seriously threatened by another driver, then ensure your car doors locked and drive (at legal speed) to the nearest police station or busy area (petrol station forecourts are ideal). Use your mobile phone to alert the police. Pressing the horn repeatedly or continuously is likely to deter a potential attacker.

Neil Worth concludes: "We encourage drivers to leave plenty of time for their journeys, which means they can feel calm and in control at the wheel.

"Stress can lead to risk taking, and this in



Keep calm and show restraint

turn increases the likelihood of aggressive incidents. We also urge drivers to avoid becoming involved in situations they recognise as dangerous or risky.

"If you're worried about another driver

who may be in danger, then stop and call the police." Free copies of GEM's Courtesy on the Road leaflet are available for download from <http://www.motoringassist.com/the-gem-story/leaflets/>

Time to start planning an adventure?

By Carmel Stewart

I have to confess to being a big Jeep fan, the rough and rugged Wrangler with its removeable doors and roof, and fold down windscreen being top of my list. It is a vehicle built for rallies, rivers, mud and slush and is bought by adventurous outdoorsy types who can build shelters out of twigs, light a fire without matches and live off the land. Not me then.

The brand-sharing newly updated Compass is an altogether different proposition and perhaps more my mark. Aimed at the family buyer, it shares that seven-slot grille and Jeep badging and engines with its more audacious siblings but is clearly a more refined, more mainstream choice. And, given that it has headed straight for the exceedingly competitive SUV segment, that is probably a wise move on Jeep's part.

It comes with plenty of choice – five engines – two petrol and three diesel; three trims – Sport, Longitude and Limited, with a top spec Trailhawk on the way; manual or automatic gearing; and two-wheel drive or four-wheel-drive, thus ensuring that every possible base is covered.

Prices for the entry-level Sport, start at a not unreasonable £23,040, especially given the amount of standard kit which includes a five-inch touch screen, Bluetooth, DAB radio, smart phone connectivity, automatic headlights, day time running lights, cruise control, brake assist, forward collision warning, hill start assist, 16-inch aluminium wheels, and, of course, a compass.

Also fitted as standard is a highly efficient lane departure warning system which tweaks



The car is aimed at the family buyer the steering wheel should you cross the white lane without indicating.

But this version is only available as a front-wheel-drive manual with the 1.6 litre diesel engine.

Every additional trim level adds more kit, more engine choices and more money, so the Compass Longitude starts at £25,000 for the 2WD, 1.4 litre 140hp petrol engine, again with the manual transmission.

The tested, very comfortable, Limited adds an 8.4-inch touch screen, smartphone connectivity, GPS navigation, heated leather well-padded front seats, electric lumbar adjustment, a heated steering wheel, rain sensitive wipers, parallel and perpendicular park assist, rear view camera, 18-inch wheels and trailer sway damping.

Every version has a spacious, well-built interior with plenty of leg and head room. The high driving position affords good all-round visibility and the large, flat-loading, practical boot means there is no need to clutter up the cabin with luggage. The vehicle's looks can



Every version has a spacious, well-built interior with plenty of leg and head room

be jazzed up by opting for a metallic exterior colour with a contrasting roof. Bronze with a black top, for example, will add £1,100 to the final tally.

On the road, the 1.6 MultiJet 120hp diesel engine tested proved slightly less refined than some of its rivals, being a little noisy on start-up. Once warmed up and rolling, however, it showed itself to be a smooth operator and well up to the task of tackling country lanes and dual carriageways as well as the inevitable motorways. And it does have the huge plus of being delightfully economical.

Official figures show a very pleasant average of 64.2mpg. If the 1.4litre MultiAir II 140hp petrol is your preferred choice, expect around 46mpg.

Its six-speed manual transmission was sharp and to the point and the suspension well suited to UK roads.

Opt for the 4WD automatic and Selec-Terrain is included which allows for a smooth passage over sand, snow and mud. It also allows the driver to lock the central diff, thus splitting the torque equally between the front and rear axles for increased traction in severe conditions.

Prices for the Compass Limited start at

£28,000 for the manual front-driven 1.4 litre petrol, with a premium of £995 added for the 1.6 MultiJet engine.

Transmission-wise, there are two gearboxes – a six-speed manual or a nine-speed automatic.

The four-wheel-drive system of the Limited model is Active Drive I. Hang fire until September when the new Trailhawk is due and you'll be able to put Active Drive II to the test. It features Rock mode for crawling, Hill Descent Control and Low-Range transfer. Time to start planning your Rubicon (family) adventure, perhaps.

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PUBLIC & LEGAL NOTICES

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10 Personals

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An early Wolves kit featuring stripes in 1904



Peter Broadbent in a vintage 1950s strip



All gold was worn in the 1960s



Captain Mike Bailey lifts the League Cup in 1974

Kitted out throughout the years



Andy Gray in the another League Cup winning kit, 1980

GOLD shirt, black shorts... sounds simple, doesn't it?

Wolves' famous colours are known the world over but due to contractual obligations to try to persuade fans to fork out the best part of £50 a year, the classic gold and black look has been tampered with many times over the years – with good and bad results.

Wolves of course actually started life playing in red and white stripes, perish the thought, and while the stripes stayed until 1922, the colour quickly changed to a deep gold and black.

Conquered

For 40 or so years came the definitive classic gold shirts and black shorts, including through the club's glorious heyday of the 1950s where the 'old gold' was gloriously prominent as Stan Cullis' team conquered the country and beat some of Europe's finest.

The old gold extended to shorts in the 1960s and then from the 1970s onwards came a fancy new logo and a darker shade of gold, worn by Mike Bailey when lifting the 1974 League Cup. Technology allowed for synthetic fibres to be worn by the time 1980 came around when another League Cup vic-

SPORTING FEATURE

By Tim Spiers

tory saw Wolves wear their last sponsor-free shirt. Tatung and Benjamin Perry were the club's first sponsors but due to successive relegations and the worst period in Wolves' history, they aren't remembered half as fondly as Staw Distribution whose logo adorned shirts in the Steve Bull renaissance era, which included a Wembley win in the Sherpa Van Trophy in 1988. After four years of pinstripes, the faint two-shaded stripes were also a hit with fans.

Then, to coincide with the start of years of decline, a ghastly shirt complete with tyre marks (to reflect Goodyear's sponsorship) was unveiled in 1992 – and prematurely scrapped a year later.

A no-nonsense 1994 edition complete with a return to the Wolverhampton coat of arms was a rare success in the modern kit era.

In 1996 came a love-it-or-hate-it wolf head template kit with plenty of black on the arms. A far more popular version of the black sleeves came in 2014. A number have been met with general indifference – but the new old gold version could prove popular.



The 2014 side donned smart sleeves



The 1992 tyre marks as worn here by Paul Cook



John De Wolf in a 1994 classic with coat of arms



Steve Bull celebrates a goal in a 1996 wolf head kit



Danny Batth models the new old gold home kit

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Dismal run continues for Himley

HIMLEY'S dismal run continued in Birmingham League Division One with a losing draw against Leamington.

Leamington, batting first, scored 256-8 in 55 overs, thanks to 50s from Chris Calcott and William Mashinge and 48 from Sulaiman Hussein. Chris Boroughs took 3-49 for Himley who managed to 160-9, in reply.

Dan Durman provided the main resistance with a 140-ball innings of 83 but no other batsman made it to 20. Matthew Davison took 3-11 in 11 overs, for Leamington including the wicket of Durman, eighth out at 156.

Halesowen were unable to take the last Wellington wicket to clinch the game after posting 222 all out at Seth Somers Park. Middle-order defiance came from Wes Griffiths (69) and Charlie Hartley (42) after Hales slipped to 83-5. The Shropshire opening bowler Jack Twigger took 5-61 for the visitors, who closed on 143-9. Matty Simmonds top scored with 46 for Wellington and there were three wickets apiece for Mashraf Shazad and Eddie Rhodes.

Match of the day in Division Three came at Ambleside, where leaders Stourbridge faced second-placed Rugby and it was the home side that prevailed, defeating the visitors by seven wickets after Rugby had posted an impressive 278-9.

After losing their first two wickets for 19, Stourbridge raced to victory in 44.5 overs after another former Handsworth man, Marvarick Perry (145 not out) and Matt Bradley (103) put on a partnership of 255 for the third wicket.

Jones thinking big as he makes rapid return to the ring

CONNOR Lee Jones is thinking big as he prepares to get busy as a professional boxer.

Jones, of Brierley Hill, faces a quick-fire second bout next month, stepping back into the ring in his home town at Dudley's The Venue on Saturday, Jul 7, less than a month after his pro debut.

He features in a four-round contest, on the 'Usual Suspects' show under the BCB Promotions banner.

The 22-year-old lightweight was last in action on June 9, at Willenhall Baths, and impressed with a points victory over former English title challenger Liam Richards. Major prizes are now in his mind. He said: "This show in Dudley is an easy one for me and my fans to get up for. It's close to home and should be a great atmosphere."

Top of the bill, Wolverhampton-born duo Matt Sen and Josh Burke collide in a Black Country battle for the eight-round British Challenge cruiserweight title. Dudley cohort Danny Ball and Josh Miller, Brummies Aaron Lovell and Daryl Pearce and Wolverhampton's Kirstie Bavington also feature.

Moustache Mountain in tag triumph



Triple H, left, with Moustache Mountain duo Tyler Bate and Trent Seven, and Johnny Saint

TWO top professional wrestlers from the Black Country have struck gold with the world's largest sports entertainment company, World Wrestling Entertainment.

Netherton's Tyler Bate and Wolverhampton's Trent Seven teamed up to be crowned the tag team champions of WWE's NXT brand.

The duo known as 'Moustache Mountain' did it on British soil as well, holding the belts aloft at

London's Royal Albert Hall after a match against the Undisputed Era team of Kyle O'Reilly and Roderick Strong.

The pair have also collectively won the Progress Tag Team Championship, and the RPW Undisputed British Tag Team Championship in the UK as well as the Chikara Campeonatos de Parejas in the United States.

The crowd serenaded the Black Country duo with chants of 'You deserve it' after their

title triumph. The plaudits didn't end there as wrestling legend Triple H - who is also the chief operating officer of WWE - later took to Twitter to congratulate Bate and Seven saying 'history was made in the iconic Royal Albert Hall'.

Both were in the inaugural WWE UK Championship in 2017. They have since been part of WWE programming with a UK-based show set to feature the pair and champ Pete Dunne.

Ayres returns as Heathens take on Brum

SHOWMAN Danny Ayres will return to ride with Cradley Heathens for their vital derby with Birmingham at Monmore Green on Monday evening.

Ayres was a big hit with Heathens fans during his spell with the club last season and has agreed to stand in for broken shoulder victim Adam Roynon.

Both the Motor Market Heathens and Brummies are fancied to top the National Trophy group and Monday could go a long way to deciding that.

Boss Will Pottinger said: "We looked at our options for Monday and we've plumped for Danny, he's the man for the big occasion! He understands the rivalry with Birmingham and he understands what it means to our fans."

"He said yes straight away when we asked him to do the meeting and I think he feels there is still a bit of unfinished business with Cradley."

"A win on Monday would really give us the upper hand but we know what a top team Birmingham are. We underachieved last season but we're enjoying the current season and can't wait for a massive meeting on Monday."

Heathens will still have teenage whizzkid Drew Kemp at reserve which means he can take up to seven rides. "We are fortunate with that," said Pottinger. "To have Drew at reserve is a real bonus. I thought he would be in the main body of the team right now but his new average doesn't come into effect yet. Hopefully we'll see a big crowd and we can put one over the Brummies."

PRIORY CLUB IS A BIG HIT

BOXING club Priory Park are celebrating one of their finest seasons to date.

The Dudley-based club's youngsters have made a real impact, not only regionally with six Midlands champions but also countrywide with two of those champions going on to gain a national title each.

Summer Cooper, aged 12, and Kelsey Oakley, 14, both won nationwide tournaments and are now in the England squad.

As well as those successes, sisters Gracie and Mia Holland both reached finals with Ben Collins and Coree Clarke making semi-finals.

Club chairman Paul Gough is delighted with his latest crop of talented young boxers.

"We have had a truly tremendous group in at the moment and you can see that from results we've had," said Gough.

But what has been particularly pleasing for Gough has been the explosion of female boxing in the gym.

"We've got a special group of girls with six of them now carded fighters and two of those winning national titles," he added.

"As well as that we've got a lot of beginners coming through and we expect even more over the next six months. It's really great to see."

Priory Park are preparing for their annual trip to Monkstown, Dublin, to compete in an international tournament.

Gough said: "We are going over there with a team of seven. Most of our young fighters have been paired with boxers from countries like Sweden, Germany and USA, so it's going to be really tough. But we do this every year and we think our guys can contend with anyone. It will be a great experience."

Despite the club's success last season, Gough is just as proud of the club's work with children who may be having a hard time outside the ring.



Priory champs - back row, from left: Ben Collins, Summer Carter, Coree Clarke; front: Gracie Holland, Kelsey Oakley and Mia Holland

"We get a lot of parents coming in now who are concerned that their children are being bullied in school, it's quite a regular occurrence now," he said.

"We help to build their confidence, being around others in the gym and learning new skills. You can see their self-esteem increasing."

Gough has also seen membership boom at the club.

"We aren't too far off being maxed out at be-

ginner level, so we will either have to start progressing people or putting a waiting list in place," he said. "But it's great to see so much interest in the sport."

"We want more champions, both at regional and national levels," he said. "We want to enter even more box cups and competitions. We also want to put on even more shows, both competitive, carded events and developmental shows to give people the experience of that big fight feel."

DKs Bolt into action at Blakedown 10k

THE weekend started early for athletes from Dudley Kingswinford Running Club as several took part in the Blakedown Bolt, a tough 10k race over trails with some tough climbs and stiles to negotiate, culminating in a water crossing within a mile of the finish.

Mark Homer was first home for the hoops in 38th place in 46.42. Dave Hickman chased him for most of the course to finish in 42nd place in 47.05. Karen Doy finished in 55.53 in 122nd place and Zoe Marklew was 192nd in 1.03.34.

Dave Norman was first back for DK in the Shifnal Half Marathon at ninth in 1.30.24 and first in his age group.

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